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Guerilla Heroine

WHY GANDHI-JINNAH TALKS FAILED?

---See Page 3

True Story Of A Soviet Heroine

NINA

(Translated from Russian by A. B. KHARDIKAR)

The following three letters, addressed to Alexandra Victorovna Khodorovskaya, draw a picture of a caring and inflexible girl who not only defended her own country courageously, but what is more they show fullness of heart, a purity and depth of human bonds, a great feeling of camaraderie, things which our country instills into one of its daughters. These letters tell us what Nina was to her friends, how she was able to keep up and strengthen faith in herself.

Nina's relations with the artilleryman Petro are excellent human relations. Without loving him, or may be, not having time to love him, as he wanted, the girl did everything to enrich their companionship. Without agreeing to make any concessions or compromises, she filled the life of this young man with a lofty meaning. If you read carefully Petro's letter, you will understand that the memory of Nina will never die in his heart. Never will her friends forget Nina, and it is in the memory of their friends that the departed have their immortality.

Nina Khodorovskaya not only won a place in the hearts of her friends. By her faith in the future she won the present during her life. Her purity and her faith in the profoundity and importance of human feelings gave her that proud consciousness of the "colossal power" about which she spoke to her friends, power to which disfigurement, wounds or death hold no fear. In her short cruelty interrupted life, Nina recognised the joy of the fight, the joy of victory, the joy of a genuine friendship and merited respect.

"Although at the present time death moves by our side and the thought about it has become habitual, nevertheless, this is life" said Nina Khodorovskaya to her friend—"so let it be a real life."

To live a real life meant for Nina to live without concessions and discount in time and space, to live in all the fullness of thoughts and feelings of a person who is sure of her future.

Dear Nina's mother,

Looking at the handwriting you will, of course, not guess, whom this letter is from. Do not be surprised. I wanted to write to you long before but all the time kept postponing it. But now I can't help writing anymore.

May be, you already know everything. To-day we took our leave of your daughter for good, dear. Don't cry, Mama. She died like a glorious daughter of her country.

Nina was a nurse in our Medical-Sanitary-Battalion. But for her warm heart it was very uncomfortable here. She broke away there where fights were raging—"All the same, I'll go" said Nina. Her motto was "He who wants, will get it. He, who seeks, will find." And she attained it. She went and joined a regiment.

I shall describe this day for you. Trench battles, very serious ones were going on. The enemy had occupied several of our points. Right through this raging fire the girl makes her way with the medicine box on her shoulder. The number of wounded men was large that day. She quickly dresses their wounds and carries them to some shelter near-by. She hurries, spurs on and pokes fun at the hesitants, and when it is necessary for the protection of the wounded, she herself takes the grenades and throws them at the approaching Germans.

From the battlefield Nina carried away under fire sixty men and officers. For fifteen minutes a German sniper followed her and wounded her in the leg, but the wound was not serious.

The state awarded her the Order of the Red Star. When she received the reward, the whole unit felt happy and proud.

When she came with the star on her breast she was beaming with happiness and joy. I said to her, "You are a wonderful girl after all, Nina!" In reply she smiled and said. "Nonsense, an ordinary girl!"

She detested cowardice, meanness, deceit and pettiness. She always laughed at the grievance-mongers. For herself with her head erect she proudly bore all the misfortunes of the war. She never cried, never whimpered, and often kept me back from such things. I can never forget her poems. The whole personality of Nina is reflected in them.

"I would like my words like wedges
To cut into the very being of the "tired" ones,
In order to fire them with the single desire,
To force them to become strong."

In the difficult conditions of our life at the front she continued to educate herself, systematically deepening her knowledge of the English language. Did she write to you that she was a donor? Several times she gave her blood for the wounded.

We often had talks with her. I learnt a lot as a result of my friendship with Nina. The following words of hers come to my mind, "I do not want that all these years should be lost, that I should not have to live through again these same difficult conditions of to-day. You must understand, Masha, what kind of a war is going on at present. Although death is stalking by our side and the thought about it has become habitual, nevertheless, this is life. So let it be a real life. My heart is rushing there were bullets are swishing, where my comrades are in need of my help. Only you must not think that this is just idle romanticism on my part. No, this is far deeper, it is a consciousness of enormous strength. And I am neither afraid of death nor of wounds, nor of disfigurement. I must be there...."

And she did attain her object and began to work with the scouts.

We all here are very proud of your daughter. I do not want to be a stranger to you. My name is Masha Pavlova. I was born in 1922. I have known Ninochka since 1941. Ever since we met, we have been together all the time. She used to call me Chizhik (Siskin). She has told me a great deal about you and I treasure in my heart a fine image of Nina's mother. You must please summon to our help all your motherly strength, and be firm. We have here our cook, old Yegorich who also has been crying all the time for her I am trying to console him as best as I can, but is it possible to help? Please write to me a few words at least. With warm greetings,

MASHA PAVLOVA.

"I'll Avenge Nina"

Dear Alexandra Victorovna,

For a long time I have not been able to make up my mind to write to you, but you already know from others about that grief which has befallen you and me. I cannot reconcile myself to such a loss. To this very moment I cannot believe that I have lost the dearest thing in my life—the hope for love. I have no near relatives, no intimate friends She was all my happiness. It was for her sake, it was thanks to her that I took up the difficult path of a scout at the front. It will take long to tell you about it.

I swear to you, dear Alexandra Victorovna, that I'll avenge Nina on the very first occasion I get. And I'll continue ruthlessly to avenge her as long as there is life in me.

Though it is very hard I shall try to describe everything in detail. She died on my arms. We were assigned the task of taking the "tongue", during the night of 25th-26th. As usual Nina accompanied us. We arrived at the place. My comrades and I had to pass through a mined field and barbed wire entanglements. We put on the camouflage overalls. I said to Nina, "Don't you come, the men-nurses will come." And we started on our dangerous journey. I was second in the file. Behind me there were six others.

When we reached the German barbed wire entanglement and lay down, Nina came up to us. This was unexpected. I tried to send her back but she refused to go saying, "The head of the medical service has asked me to be with the rest of the scouts."

At this very moment one of the scouts crept into the mine-field and got himself injured. Nina rushed to his help. Precisely at this moment a German noticed us and directed his machine-gun fire at us. I shouted to Nina to tell her that she should not raise herself above the ground, but she did not listen, continuing to do the dressing. And so the thing happened. One of the enemy bullets struck our Nina. In the heat of it all she made two movements, dashed forward and fell face downwards, without uttering a single word.

I tore off her camouflage overall and other clothes on her chest, but it was impossible to save her in any way. The bullet has passed through the lungs and the heart. We buried her in the graveyard near the village of Kintovo. The scouts with their own hands put up a memorial tablet on it and her girl companions prepared a wreath.

I have got a photograph of you and her. If you have no objection let them remain with me as a remembrance. Not only I but all the scouts vowed to avenge mercilessly the death of our comrade.

I request you, Alexandr Victorovna, to excuse me, if I may have been rude in any way in expressing myself. I am terrible upset and cannot write in a manner, so that it may help you to bear this blow easily. That's all. I wish you many years of life.

PYOTR SADOVOI.

11th Dec. 1943.
Field Post Office 57951-A.

Nina's Last Letter

Darling Mama,

I have earned your congratulations. Our general has awarded me the Order of the Red Star, which is already adorning my uniform. The thing that gives me the greatest pleasure and which I consider the greatest reward is when my comrades express their thanks and feel proud of me. There are, of course, many things very exciting, but I'll tell you about them afterwards when the war is over and we are together once again. But I'll tell you only one thing that in these fights the girl-snipers have taken a fine part. I have seen how they fight. Simply amazing!

You must be supposing that I was photographed. They were all prepared to do so but did not, because I had a too "militant appearance".... My shirt and breeches were all dirty with mud and blood. My shoes and puttees also were in a similar state. But I am sending you just now a photograph of me which I had already promised you in summer, after making conscientious efforts to find a better one! I am living as before I am at present in charge of the dressing. I want to tell you something. Some of the girls here do not behave quite well. Such girls are few, but it must be admitted that there are some.

"There were attempts on the part of certain persons to make proposals" to me also. But such attempts received a strong rebuff.

But then I have made genuine friends at the front, who have confidence in me, who love me and who treat me as one of their near relatives. Such is Mashenka who works at the medical and sanitary battalion, old Yegorich—our cook, the senior Lieut. Pavel Ivanovich and Petro—an artillery man (now he is in our regiment and he is an artillery man but is a good sniper too) And I am proud of such friends.

Pavel Ivanovich always tells me about his two daughters and Yegorich always looks after me just like a father. Masha has no one except myself. We had a third girl-friend —Klava, but she is now in another regiment. Briefly they are good people and genuine friends, who have been tested in the hard as well as happy moments of our lives at the front.

And my darling mother, it is difficult to understand people. In this respect, life at the front taught me a lot, forced me to look searchingly into the hearts of people, to look not only at the outward motives of their conduct.

I'll write now, if you like, about Pyotr Sadovoi. He came to know me the very first day he arrived. He wrote me a note expressing his wish to be acquainted. It is possible that at first he wanted "to flirt", to pay court" to me. He is a simple fellow, has completed seven classes of the agricultural school in Chernitovshchina, is a tractor-driver and was a tank-driver during the war with Finland. His appearance is attractive. He is stately and even handsome. I become friendly with him. He did not say that he loved me, but obviously showed preference for me in the presence of others. But it is dangerous to play with fire. My conscience warned me, and after two or three meetings with him, not trusting his feelings, I told him that I loved another person and would never love him. And, dear Mama, he cried. It seemed that he was alone in the world. He had no near relations and his native place was occupied at that time.

I kept quiet, but I felt sorry for him. I trusted him, Mama. But what could I tell him? I wanted to be closer to him but in no way could I persuade myself to love him. All the same we became friends gradually. Afterwards we met often, talked about many things. He is older than myself but less developed. I wanted to raise him to my level.

It seems to me that our talks benefited him greatly and he himself said so several times. He was a clerk in the Staff-Office. Indeed it was very shameful for a young and healthy person to hold such a position. Although he was kept there against his desire, I used to laugh at him and the poor fellow tried his hardest to get out of that position. Now he is in the advanced section. Daring and courageous he asks to be allowed to go where it is most dangerous. Now I respect him. And just now he is standing at the most dangerous place in our defence—on military guard duty on the islet.

You, I believe, nevertheless think that I am in love with him. No, my darling Mama, I give you my word of honour. But it is true that I am very friendly with him. And I am proud that our friendship helps him to become a maturer and braver man.

It appears to be a fact that he loves me, though I some time feel doubtful about it. I feel proud of the fact that he respects me, that I attained such pure relations between us—as a man and a woman. And I would like to be by his side at dangerous moments.

Today I have written to you about my friends. But you like to know about them, don't you? You perhaps worry all the time lest I might make a mistake, Don't be afraid, dear Mama, I won't make a mistake.

Old Yegorich all the time dreams of how after the war, you and I will go to him to Bolchok, in Tambov district, to eat apples and honey. But enough about myself.

Yes, do you know how I dress my hair? I plait two braids in front and pin them up above with safety pin.

I am glad you have grown something in your garden. Write to me whether the boys visit you and whether you have heard anything about the institute. I'll return with victory and take up my studies once more. I kiss you hard.

NINA.

* * *

Nina did not return. She perished like a loyal daughter of our country, fulfilling her duty to the last moment.

But out of these three simple letters before us unfolds a bright figure of a girl, courageous and proud keeping high in life before her integrity, her conception of friendship and love, her loyalty to her friends and her country.

Industrial Rehabilitation Will Take France Five Years

An American press service said Minister of Information Pierre Teitger, in a speech, revealed that the war has cost France three million potential workers in prisoners and reported that 600.000 buildings were destroyed. Railroads lost 1,875 miles of tracks, 170,000 cars and 2,300 tunnels, dams and bridges. The country also lost 4,500 other bridges and all major ports through which repair materials must come were made virtually useless.

Teitger said four years of Vichy administration cost the country 17,200 million dollars and the national debt has risen from 8.900 million to 33,000 million dollars.

He revealed that while importations of material will be essential to launch rehabilitation, France is in no financial position to import the remainder explaining that purchases during the next eight months alone of 75,000 tons of merchandise will cost one-third France's immediately disposable gold.

The minister estimated that France will be unable to re-establish full-scale industrial production for five or six years. "Five, six perhaps ten years" will be required to rehabilitate all industrial installations, ports and railroads to their pre-war condition. Citing nationalization of mines of the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments he said: "The Government intends to pursue structural reform for more efficient administration" during this period. Teitger expressed confidence that the country's "patience and abnegation" will enable France to achieve complete industrial reconstruction and regain her former glory and power.—USOWI.

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WHY GANDHI-JINNAH TALKS FAILED?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, M.L.A. (Central), Deputy Leader of the Congress Assembly Party, suggests in this article a solution of the communal question.

FOUR hundred millions waited breathlessly when Gandhiji and Jinnah met. Fourteen interviews took place. Many letters were exchanged. Yet these millions waited

They hoped that something would come out of this, that the deadlock which had hitherto kept both apart, whom God in his wisdom had so inextricably mixed together, would disappear ushering in the New era for which all had prayed and waited. On the 27th September, 1944 the world knew once again that Indian statesmanship had failed to rise to the occasion and that alien imperialism had triumphed.

League Demand

All the fourteen interviews were held in Mr. Jinnah's house. The old man had to come all the way to Bombay. He had to go every time to seek an interview. Not one of his visits were ever returned. However much we may criticise Gandhiji, however much we may differ from him, yet no one will deny that his conduct was faultless and in keeping with the Islamic conception of humility. Perhaps, someday some people will have the courage to say why the visiting and interview-seeking was done by Gandhiji and not by Mr. Jinnah. In order to understand the League demand we have to go back to the League resolution of 1940. Its material portion runs thus:—

"That no constitutional plan would be workable in the country or acceptable to the Muslims unless it is designed on the following basic principles, viz. that geographically contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should be so constituted with such territorial re-adjustments as may be necessary that the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in majority as in the North Western and Eastern zones of India should be grouped to constitute independent states in which constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign".

The resolution proceeds—"the session further authorises the Working Committee to frame a scheme providing for the assumption finally by the respective regions of all powers such as defence, external affairs, communications, customs and such other matters as may be necessary". Briefly the demand is the setting of sovereign independent states where the Muslims are in a majority.

While agreeing to the demarcation of the predominantly Muslim areas the C. R. Formula added the following:—

"In the areas thus demarcated, a plebiscite of all the inhabitants held on the basis of adult suffrage or other practicable franchise shall ultimately decide the issue of separation from Hindustan". Another important clause laid down that in case of separation, defence, commerce, communications and other kindred matters, would be safeguarded by mutual agreement. It need not be repeated that all this was to take effect after the transfer of real power by Britain. In this connection, it must be remembered that the Congress Working Committee had resolved on 2nd April, 1942 that no territorial unit was to be compelled to remain in an Indian Union against its declared and established will.

Where They Differed

Having refreshed our memory with the material portions of the two resolutions and the C. R. Formula, let us now find out the points on which no agreement could be reached. The points on which Gandhiji and Jinnah Sahib sharply differed are as follows:—

1. Mr. Jinnah asserted that Muslims and Hindus were two separate nations Gandhiji refused to accept this doctrine.
2. Gandhiji suggested that predominantly Muslim areas should be marked off by a Commission and separation should follow, if the inhabitants of the areas thus demarcated so desire as a result of a plebiscite held for the purpose. Mr. Jinnah did not agree to a plebiscite and asserted that it was the inherent right of the Muslims to be separate.
3. Gandhiji demanded that there should be a treaty of separation wherein provisions should be made for administration of matters of common interest such as defence, communications, commerce and foreign affairs etc. Mr. Jinnah declared that there could be no such common matters as between two sovereign independent States. What Mr. Jinnah visualised was some treaty which may be negotiated after separation, between the two independent states.
4. There was a sharp difference of opinion as to the boundaries of the Punjab and Bengal. Gandhiji could only agree to the separation of that part of Punjab where the Muslms were in absolute majority over all the other elements and the parts of Bengal and Assam where the Muslim are in absolute majority. Mr. Jinnah while agreeing to some agreed adjustments of boundaries replied—"if this term was accepted and given effect to the present boundaries of these provinces would be maimed and mutilated beyond redemption and leave us only with the husk".
5. And lastly they differed on the question of interim Government

Mr. Jinnah asked: What will the powers of such a provisional interim Government be? How will it be formed; to whom will it be responsible? Gandhiji's reply was that the provisional interim government would be responsible to the elected members of the present assembly or a newly elected one. It would have all the powers less that of the Commander-in-Chief during the war and full powers thereafter.

Wanted Bold Decisions

To sum up, the talks broke down on the following points:—

Whether Muslims were a nation or not; the boundaries of the Punjab and Bengal, the question of plebiscite and, lastly, whether any subjects could at all be considered common between the states.

We are face to face with new and difficult problems. Thinking on old worn-out lines will not do. Bold and radical decisions are called for. We must forget to live in the past, and should not be constantly looking back to it for guidance in our present difficulties. We must admit that so far we in the Congress have not had any scientific solution of the communal problem. We have no plan of our own. Mr. Jinnah has a plan. We may not agree with it or like it, but it is there. On the 2nd April, 1942 the Working Committee declared that no territorial unit was to be compelled to remain in an Indian Union. In May, 1942, the A.I.C.C. hastened to pass Pandit Jagat Narain Lal's resolution at Allahabad in the following words:—

"The A.I.C.C. is of the opinion that any proposal to dis-integrate India by giving liberty to any component state or territorial unit to secede from an Indian Union or Federation will be highly detrimental to the best interest of the people of the different states and provinces and the country as a whole and the Congress therefore cannot agree to any such proposal."

Again in 1944, we negotiated with Mr. Jinnah on the basis of self-determination and strangely enough watererd it down by insisting that there should be a pre-separation treaty whereby defence, foreign affairs, communications and Allied subjects shall remain as central subjects. To this Mr. Jinnah objected that it was not self-determination.

The claim that the Muslims in India constitute a separate nation has been very ably argued by Mr. Jinnah in his own inimitable way. If this is so, how is it that Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey which are territorially contiguous units and all predominantly Muslim do not constitute one state. Judged by all the tests advanced by Mr. Jinnah, they should have been one, but they are not.

Again how is it that contiguous and predominantly Muslim territories in Russia and China prefer to remain as parts of those countries and never thought of demanding separate states like the Indian Muslims under the League banner? There must, therefore, be something more before a people can claim to be a nation. One can understand Pathans, Punjabis and Maharashtrians, to quote only some instances, being legitimately called nations. Those who talk of a Muslim nation in the north-west shut their eyes to the differences which today exist between the Pathans, Kashmirers, Punjabis, Baluchis, and Sindhis. There is nothing sacred about the one nation or two nations theory. Why not face an obvious situation and admit that the Punjabis, Andhras or Biharees and others constitute nations and all go to form a bigger entity called the Indian nation? Why not treat all these people as nations? Some are Muslims and others are Hindus. Some of them are badly cut about by artificial boundaries of states and provinces but one can trust the people concerned to remove this defect in their physical structure.

Again it has been claimed that the Muslims have an inherent right of self-determination. If Muslims have this right, who can dare deny this right to the non-Muslims? Self-determination must and can mean the expression of free will of the various sub-nationalities in India. Eminent though he is, even the great Mr. Jinnah cannot be allowed to determine things for the predominantly Muslim nationalities. What a bad start it will be for Muslim States in India if the non-Muslim minorities are to be denied the right of self-determination just because they believe in a different religion? You cannot have one code for the Muslims and another for the non-Muslims. There must be a plebiscite, therefore, in every territorial unit or nationality, and every citizen must have a vote irrespective of his or her religious or political belief. Let us not shirk a plebiscite. It is difficult to believe that the wide-awake Muslims are so spineless that they will vote in a manner which is against their own better interest. Let us, therefore, trust the Muslims.

Once we shake off this religious complex, we need have no worries that areas like Bengal and Punjab will be faced with maiming or mutilation. There is nothing wrong in adjusting the territorial boundaries of provinces so that they contain people who speak one language, people who stand apart from those around them, and, therefore, can easily be marked off.

Russia Shows The Way

We have too long been haunted with the desire of aping everything British. But India and Britain differ in many respects which need not be mentioned. In view of our size, and the variety of races and creeds which inhabit India, our problem is more akin to the Soviet problems. Russia of the Soviets comprises number of nationalities and languages. There also they had the same problems which defy solution in India. The Russians refused to submit to old prejudices and outworn political doctrines. They frankly admitted that Russia was a multi-national state. Each nationality was given the right of secession. Even in the midst of this World War II which threatened the very existence of the Russian state, the Russians went ahead and conceded that each nation state within the Russian Union could not only maintain its own Army but was at perfect liberty to have its own diplomatic representatives abroad. Mr. Jagat Narian Lal's resolution would bring about the very thing which it seeks to prevent. By conceding the right of secession the Russians banished all manner of distrust and fears from the minds of the component states. Thereby they succeeded in having one Russia, based not on the might of the Czarist regime but on the equality of all nations which voluntarily form part of the great Union of the Soviets. Let us, therefore, go ahead without the least hesitation and fear. Let us concede; the right of self-determination and even secession to our own sub-nationalities. Let the best developed units in the Indian Union use their position of vantage not to exploit the less developed units. Let the fortunate ones use their great powers to bring the unfortunate ones to their own level of cultural and economic development. The rest is not so difficult and is bound to follow. It will not be difficult for these nation states, in their own interest to surrender part of their sovereignty to a centre administering matters of common interest. Surely it is not beyond the genius of the Indian race to devise a centre where it will be difficult for a unit or a group of units to impose its or their will on the rest. These are some of the suggestions which may considerably help us in solving the deadlock. Great Britain has thrown a challenge to our capacity to adjust our differences and to come together. Surely we must accept this arrogant challenge and answer it in a manner which will make British imperialism an unhappy memory of the past.

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In Verse—Or Worse

By K. RAMA RAO

Lucknow is famous for kite-flying, bater-fighting, opium-eating on historic occasions, and mushairas.

The two-day session of the All-India *Mushaira* that recently concluded in the city, added substantially to the war funds and enjoyed the unique distinction of being addressed by a Governor, speaking far above his usual form. The "war poetry" was in the chastest Urdu, which Lucknow produces habitually to the delectable jealousy of Old Delhi. New triumphs have been apparently recorded, for we had it on the august authority of the Maharajkumar of Mahmudabad that "a large number of our poets have produced admirable poems to encourage enlistment in the army, navy and air force and give impetus to the war effort."

The technique of poetry has risen to the music of the bomber. The language, ideas and expressions have answered to the bugle of the recruiting sergeant. Much has been done, but much more remains to be done. What have the poets sung about the profiteer and the hoarder? They deserve not a lyrical, but an epic, treatment. Personifications and apostrophes being the quintessence of poetry, some of the elusive and adroit heroes of the black market should have been specially singled out for mention in resounding rhyme. Such versification would no doubt involve thumping libels. But an immediate guarantee of statutory protection should have been forthcoming from the gubernatorial lips.

A Stiff Test

How much of this "war poetry", even when it springs up in Lucknow, home of poets, courts and palaces will live, no one can tell. For, as the Governor himself remarked, "great poetry is a revelation of life, and the life of these days is strenuous, dangerous and yet hopeful." It is perhaps beyond the approved old-style mushairas that we must look to the genuine radiance of the poetry that endures, for the poet is not merely "the master of beautiful words and phrases but also a leader of thought, one who guides with his vision and clarifies with his command of language the stumbling thoughts of lesser men and leads them to a finer conception of the beauty of the world."

It is then a stiff test to negotiate. If it is not all song that lives, neither is it all song that dies. Even the National War Front is producing New Horizons, at any rate striking posters that detract from the ugliness of our tin-shed railway stations. Mr. M. N. Roy may make querulous press statements and produce scurrilous newspapers, but the Royists have enlisted some high poetic talent, whose productions may last, ironically enough, for the reason that they are not exactly intended for the dithyrambics of the front's promoters. The Communists, who have the root of the matter in them, are blazing away. They touch the top-note on the anti-Fascist lyre, and by the sheerest ingenuity damn Churchill with faint praise and hand out bouquets to Stalin. Their troubadors invade the countryside with song and drum, allure the crowds, and create anxiety for the war-efforters and the anti-war-efforters alike.

Production To Order

The production of poetry to order is no new phenomenon in the history of literature. Homer sang to princes and princelets. Sophocles and Aeschylus wrote plays to please the city republics of Greece. One of them produced a play on the eve of the famous battle of Salanus to assure himself of a generalship in that engagement. Virgil's *Aenid* was triumphally Roman and purple, and did much to resolve the difficulties of the ambitious Augustus Caesar who had just then translated the republic into an empire. Literary critic has naively, suggested that Horace wrote his odes in praise of agriculture, probably as a part of a campaign to take back the highly urbanished Romans to the countryside for making up a gaping shortage in the production of corn.

Shakespeare was the first playwright of Elizabeth and James I. His English plays created a justificatory background for the Tudor despotism. Dryden wrote his satires not only to shatter his own and the King's enemies, but to defend the Restoration. Tennyson quickly rose to every occasion like a rabot and versified for deaths and marriages equally well.

In our own country mysticism and religion have stormed the region of pure poetry, and kings and courts did not figure at the beginning but gradually we made a mess of things, to the extent that the eroticism of rajas and ranis bulked largely in the decadent poetry of the later eras. Its inspiration must have been court intrigues and amatory fiascos.

Muse Flowers

Whatever may have happened to us politically, our national industry of poetising has persisted throughout the ages. When we were young, the occasion produced the poet. The "benefits of British rule" formed the staple of juvenile oratory at school and poetic rapsody at district collectors' durbars. It generally ran:—"Oh you British, you have wiped out the Pindaris. You have destroyed the nests of the thugs. You have cleared the forests. You have made roads. You have toed up the country by rail and wire." And all that.

That was enough. Some of them even wrote in praise of the latest taxation bills. It is not unusual for our little Miltons and Shakespeares to write without notice lyrics on lawyers, epics on governors, plays on police inspectors, and sonnets on sanitary superintendents. They lisp in numbers because the numbers come to them.

I am no Indo-Anglian in poetry, even as I am not an Anglo-Indian in politics. But my own dormant Muse was inspired by the contagious conflagration of the Lucknow *mushaira*, and so, I promptly went to the bank of the Gomti and improvised my own lines for the war-effort, from my own highly personal angle. If the rhyme is halting, if the metre is irregular, I can at least claim my ideas to be sublime and my performance to be splendid. The Defence of India Rules have destroyed my political freedom but they have not been able to cancel my poetic licence.

Churchill

Listen, Oh you, Winston Spencer Churchill,
In India's path thou art a rugged hill,
But hills do break with dynamite;
We shall break you with our soul's might.

Amery

Leopold Stennett Amery,
With devils he makes merry
With truth he palters;
The facts he alters
Though born at Gorakhpur,
He is like a mango of Rampur.

"The Defence of India rules have destroyed my political freedom, but they have not been able to cancel my poetic license", says K. Rama Rao, the distinguished editor of the now defunct "National Herald" of Lucknow, as an excuse for bursting into poetry.

Poets are made as well as born!

Hallett

Sir Maurice Garnier Hallett,
With chisel and mallet,
Attacks India's fair face;
But neither Hallett nor mallet
Can prevent India's face
Growing fair and fairer for all that.

Wavell

Welcome, Viscount Wavell
To neighing horse, farewell
To ear-piercing drum farewell
Gandhi you have released from jail,
But Congress train is off the rail.
Nehru is still in prison;
Tell me what's the reason

Gandhi

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
To tyrants you are like 'andhi.'
People call you a Mahatma,
Because you are their Parmatma;
Live up to a hundred,
Till our foes are with dust kindred.

D. I. R.

D. I. R.
A. I. R.
Wherever you are,
You are lovelier far
Than the brightest star.

Defence of India Rules
This is how Britain rules
For law and order
She has great ardour.
Send them to Greece
To establish peace
They have gone to Italy
To reign totally.

PO VALLEY—'THE COCKPIT OF EUROPE'

By MURRAY OULTON

A historic stage upon which much of Europe's history has been set, the Po Valley, now being liberated, has very definite characteristics.

In the article below Murray Oulton describes the natural features of the Valley and how they have effected the character of its people.

It is not possible to overstate the influence of the Po on the geography economics, and military history of Italy. More than that, it has been one of the most dominant factors in European civilisation.

There is a saying that "The Po Valley has been the cockpit of Europe." It is literally true, for it has been the battlefield of the Celt, the Phoenician, the Latin and the Teuton.

In the Valley of the Po Hannibal recruited his legions before he made his first descent upon Italy proper; it was there that Caesar made his irrevocable decision by his crossing of the Rubicon—a phrase which has now passed into common parlance—thereby founding the Empire; it was there too, that the barbarians pulled the decaying Empire to pieces and where Charlemagne reestablished it; and then, last century, came the most momentous event in the history of Italy since Caesar's act, the unification of the country, which was accomplished in the north.

Unique In Europe

The Po Valley is unique in Europe. In the Middle Ages it became one of the two outstanding centres of city civilization of the Continent. Population was dense there, and it was linked to the other, another low-lying country, the Netherlands by the Rhine.

Mountains and rivers have made the Po Valley what it is, cut off from the northern countries of Europe by the vast semicircle of the Alps and separated from southern Italy by the Apennines. In olden days it was not regarded as forming part of Italy at all but was looked upon as part of Gaul. To this day French dialects are used in Piedmont, the western section of the Plain, and around the Brenner the people are marked by Teutonic in features, proving that the Plain has been a meeting place of many races.

The Plain of Lombardy, as the central area of the Po Valley is known is the chief industrial territory in Italy, and Turin in Piedmont is second only to Milan as a centre of industry.

Unsurpassed Craftsmen

The vigour, intelligence, and activity of the people northern Italy contrasts strongly with the more lethargic people of the south. It is not surprising that it is in the north that Italian democracy has its strongest roots. Fascism may have silenced it temporarily, but it was never destroyed.

The artisan and the peasant are among the most hard-working in Europe, a fact which is reflected in the great industries built up in Turin and Milan, and in the intensively cultivated countryside. For craftsmanship the workers of the north are unsurpassed in Europe; they are splendid engineers, road-makers, bridge-builders and shipwrights.

Italy is not all sunshine, and this is certainly true of the valley of the Po. Indeed, in winter the climate is severe, and definitely colder than that of Britain. There is no doubt that this has reflected itself in the enterprising character of the people.

The valley has a continental climate, in fact, much hotter in summer and colder in winter than peninsular Italy. In Milan the thermometer drops below zero at times.

Fertile Soil

For hundreds of years large areas of the Po Valley have been irrigated and many cattle are kept. The fertility of the soil is such that, in the water-meadows of the Po, it is possible to reap a crop of hay for each of eight or nine months in the year.

The rice grown is some of the finest the world produces. The plain is a notable centre of the silk industry, and the sheep maintained in the foothills yield the heaviest wool crop in the country.

Because of the nearness of the mountains water-power is abundant, and it has been intensively harnessed in recent years for the electrification of the railways, for power and light. Practically every village is supplied, and almost every industry has the benefit of it.

Milan and Turin are the leading centres in Italy for heavy industries, and of late years the production of cars and planes has multiplied many times.

(Condensed from "Saturday Night")

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Mr. S. P. Nair, Director, Powells Ltd., showing some of the surgical instruments manufactured at the company's works to Her Highness the Junior Maharani of Baroda on the occasion of her visit to the works at Lamington Road last week.

Peace Returns To Laval

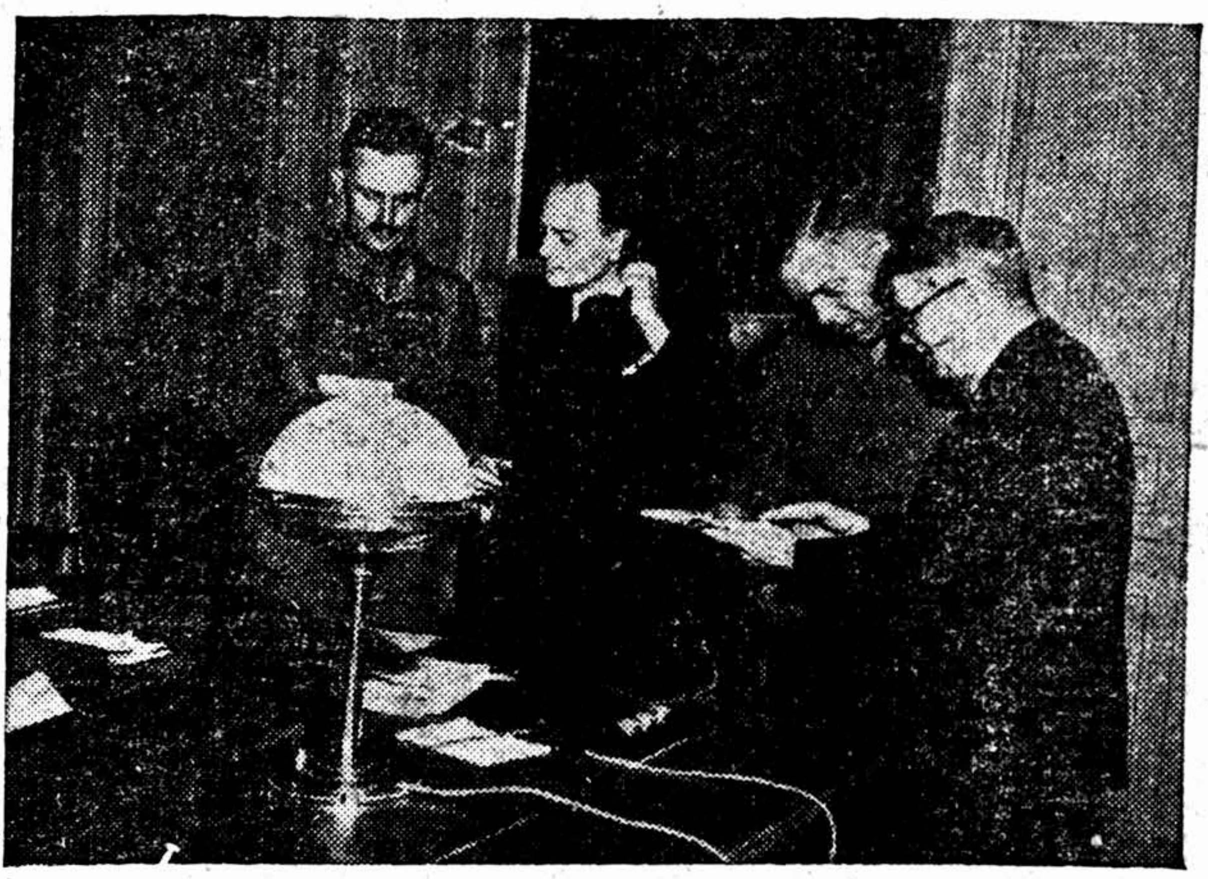
A LITTLE FRENCH TOWN BEGINS TO LIVE AGAIN—AFTER FOUR YEARS OF NAZI RULE

In the wake of the armies, the refugees returned home.

A news bulletin was issued to reassure the population and to quell the rumours.

The water works having been dynamited by the retreating Germans, the old-time pump came in handy.

People cheered as the Allied armies entered Laval, a little French town.



A few hours after, the new Prefect (Magistrate) took office, set to work to restore order.

The people began the work of rebuilding their devastated homes.

The newspapers began to arrive and after four years Laval got the first undiluted news.

WHAT IS HITLER DOING?

Writing "Mein Kampf" Vol II

By ALFRED JOACHIM FISCHER

The following details which throw some light on the Hitler mystery, originate from a Swedish source, which has good connection with the 'Wilhelmstrasse' and which has so far shown itself to be invariably well-informed:

Reports describing Hitler as a prisoner or a subject of Heinrich Himmler do not correspond with the facts. Only with difficulty can be ascertained to-day whether the apathetic German people still cling to the Fuehrer myth. No more is it possible to predict the extent to which a personal proclamation by Hitler could free it from the state of lethargy confirmed by all neutral observers. As far as the leaders of the Party are concerned, however, it is quite obvious that, in their eyes the Fuehrer myth has lost nothing of old magical power. At the same time, this conception falls and stands with Adolf Hitler, who, as "Fuehrer" is not looked upon as a kind of representative of God (comparable to the position of the elected Pope as seen by Catholics), but as God himself. Thus, he cannot be replaced and his spiritual succession is something unthinkable.

Joseph Goebbels, cynic and cold speculator, is perhaps the only one not subject to this spell. If he continues to base his propaganda on the Hitler myth, it is merely for reasons of political calculation, but not because of his inner conviction or spiritual attitude. Men like Rosenberg, Dr. Ley, Bornemann, Sauckel and Goering, on the other hand—despite the latter's initial coolness—to whom Hitler was but a bridge to own power—are full of this new Paganism: the Fuehrer cult: Germany, the Movement, and above all, the beloved Ego, lives and dies with Hitler.

It is wishful thinking to draw a parallel to Wilhelm II. He was given up by a considerable part of his intimate circle in 1918, while Adolf Hitler is venerated and courted, now as before, by everyone of the Nazi leaders. Even Himmler draws his power solely from the respect for the Fuehrer. The end of Hitler or rather of his nymbus would also mean the end of the terror regime exercised over Germany by this really colourless ex-school teacher and ex-farmer whom even his closest fellow leaders regard at best as a necessary policeman, by no means as a fascinating personality. His power is not founded on himself, he as well as SS and Gestapo are only secondary conceptions, all inseparably depending on the First Commandment of the New German Catechism; Adolf Hitler is the Fuehrer of the German Reich.

Heinrich Himmler—himself not psychologically independent from the Hitler atmosphere—knows this will and acts accordingly. During the several weeks' stay at Castle Kelsheim, near Salzburg, as well as after his return to Berchtesgaden, he was invariably found in the immediate surroundings of the suddenly inactive Obersten Kriegsherrn (war chief).

Hitler is in the best of health. His mental state is unchanged and there is no question of open insanity. It would, at any rate, be completely misleading to say that Himmler has taken over his power. No, it is the Fuehrer himself, who has entrusted it to the blood-stained hands of the SS Palestine. Himmler's position can be formulated thus: He is not the owner, but the trustee of the ultimate omnipotence, always answerable to the idol of the Movement whose internal prestige remains unscathed by exterior events such as constant misfortunes and his recent inactivity. The moment he demands power back, no member of the Supreme Party Leadership will dare or even desire to refuse it to him.

We must, therefore, reject the theory of a crisis in the confidence which the high Nazi ranks hold for Hitler, nor is there any truth in report about his failing health. Meanwhile he has retired from all active state affairs. Even military matters and strategic plans no longer seem to hold any interest for him. The Fuehrer's H. Q. is in effect, carrying on without the Fuehrer and, unhampered by his intuitions will probably be able to organise the last resistance, the more effectively.

* * *

What then, is Hitler doing, in this final phase of the catastrophe for which he is responsible? Does he share the apathy of the people? Is he already aware of the certain defeat? Adolf Hitler is full of energy, very lively and even showing a special eloquence at the occasional audiences granted to his party friends In no way does he appear like a morally crushed man. Although still hoping for the great change at the last minute, he no longer excludes a possible military defeat, which he would, however, not consider as final, but rather in the historic sense as an inevitable armed truce between two wars for German world dominance.

For Hitler this second war has one presupposition: the continued existence of the National Socialist idea, without whose second totalitarian victory inside Germany an external victory cannot be imagined. All his thoughts and ideas, i.e., the feverish energies of one forever possessed by a mad idea are, therefore centred around this question: What chances are left for me to preserve the National Socialist ideology and to prepare the final victory.

In a personality as egocentric as Hitler's, the answer is naturally connected with the Ego. The belief in him as the Fuehrer must survive him, he needs immortality. In his opinion, an eternal, therefore, religious Hitler myth is the only essential. After him, Germany could regain its greatnesses without a new Fuehrer, as long as it possessed adequate and eloquent apostles of the faith. In other words, figures like Goebbels must be permanent on the scene of to-morrow. Thus, the little club-footed doctor who conquered Berlin for Hitler during the first years of fight, has been pushed to the foreground very deliberately.

The preparation of a divine mission requires that secular affairs, like state and army leadership, should no longer be so openly in the hands of the Chosen One. Already his thoughts and plans are concerned with the Future. He intends to act so to speak "according to plan", just like his first successful (and later unsuccessful) campaigns. In the last chapter of his life, the maniacal mischief-maker looks back to the days of Landsberg, the isolation of his so-called internment in a fortress, where as a guest of the Prussian state, he wrote "Mein Kampf", the book that created the fundament for the mass propagation of his party until its assumption of power and beyond.

Superstitious, like all magicians, Hitler believes in the principle of duplicity, particularly in history. In Castle Klessheim, he received experts of National Socialist ideology, above all Rosenberg and Professor Haushofer, the geopolitician. Back in Berchtesgaden, he retired even more conspicuously. Instead of preparing battle plans and Home Guard programmes, Hitler is writing what he terms the great battle plan of the future. With the very minimum amount of sleep and interrupted only by the most important interviews, he is putting on paper a book with the title "Mein Kampf" Vol. II.

The second and future volume will be less matter-of-fact, brutal and cynical, than the first, since a more open-eyed world could have looked up and predicted the events after 1938. Religions and myths, which lack a centre of flesh and blood need ideologies rather than the politicians of the day. It therefore, seems to be established that "Mein Kampf" Vol. II. will probably be not so much a continuation of Vol. I, as a continuation of Rosenberg's "Myth of the 20th Century."

The New Catechism is to show ways and means as to how the Hitler's faith retaining the deadly enemies of old (Jewry, Bolshevism, Freemasonry) as the powers of Evil—may grow beyond the German borders into a European issue. A new war is to be waged only when the Nazi bacilli will have penetrated the entire European organism, far more deeply than before 1939. Nazi Germany is the stronghold, Nazi Europe the next great stage.

Adolf Hitler of 1944 has lost the carelessness of his Landsberg days. "Mein Kampf, Vol. I" required only the advice of a few intimate friends and the help of some encyclopaedias. The author of Vol. II seeks the guidance of experts, as he did when preparing his great speeches. Notwithstanding the most intensive work, therefore, it may still take months until the manuscript has been completed and printed.

To Hitler, this moment must appear all the more as the fulfilment of his life, the more inevitable will become the military defeat. His demonic will power will again and again prevent the capitulation of German towns and the withdrawal from hopeless positions, in order to gain further weeks and later only days for his immortality at the cost of more and more sacrifices of his own peoples.

One thing seems certain already today: The mystical end of this darkest and most criminal figure of our century—his rise into the "Goetter-daemmerung" (Twilight of the Gods)—will take place only after) "Mein Kampf" Vol. II has been completed and its further existence safeguarded.

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U. S. TROOPS INVADE MINDORO ISLAND

"CHURCHILL MUST GO", SAYS H. G. WELLS

LONDON, Dec. 15: Under the heading "Churchill Must Go", Mr. H. G. Wells, in the Socialist weekly 'Tribune' describes the British Prime Minister as a "would-be British Fuehrer."

Mr. Wells says: "Churchill's ideology picked up in the garrison life of India, on the reefs of South Africa, the maternal home and conversation of wealthy Conservative households is a pitiful jumble of incoherent nonsense. A boy scout is better equipped.

"He has never given evidence of thinking extensively or of any scientific or literary capacity. His ignorance of contemporary social and physical science is conspicuous. He has served his purpose and it is high time he retired before we forget the debt we owe him. We want him to go—now—bfeore he discredits us further, for his own sake as well as ours; and if he takes all the royalties in the world with him—so much the better for human hope. The matter is urgent."—Reuter.

Soviet Dash For Gateway To Vienna

MOSCOW, Dec. 16.

From Reuter's special correspondent:

Marshal Malinovsky's troops today moving beyond Ipol river north of Budapest in a two-way thrust are menacing the approaches to Bratislava gap gateway to Vienna as well as the German flank in Czechoslovakia

The break across Ipol river which at this point forms the frontier between Hungary and Czechoslovakia was made only after heavy fighting in which Germans clung on grimly to this waterline on route to south-eastern borders of the Reich.

Apart from an increasing threat to Austria, it has placed the Red Army in a more advantageous position for breaking up of German forces in eastern Czechoslovakia.—Reuter.

ALLIED PROGRESS TOWARDS DUREN

S.H.A.E.F. PARIS. Dec. 16.

General Eisenhower's "communique" to-day stated "Allied progress towards Duren has given us control of the highground dominating the Roer river on the south-west side of the town.

Villages of Gurzenich, Birgel, and Kufferat are in our hands and enemy counter-attacks against both Gurzenich and Birgel have been repulsed.

Targets in the village of Kreuzau across the Roer from Kufferat were hit by fighter bombers. Farther north, two remaining pockets of resistance west of the Duren Linnich sector of the Roer river have been cleared. Our units have mopped up the factory area south-east of Marlaweiler and captured Castel near Schophovem.—Reuter.

STOP PRESS

LEAGUE ADJOURNMENT MOTION REJECTED.

LAHORE, Dec. 15: The House rejected by 78 to 27 votes the Muslim League Party's adjournment motion to discuss the "activities of the Deputy Commissioner and other civil officers of Jhang District in helping the organisation of the Zamindar League in their district by convening meetings and collecting funds."—A.P.

PUNJAB CONGRESSMEN'S PLEDGE.

LUDHIANA. Dec. 16.

Implicit faith in the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and undivided loyalty to the Congress high command were pledged by nearly 400 Congress workers and leaders of the Punjab who met in Ludhiana to-day.—A. P.

LATEST COMMERCIAL

COTTON (MARCH).

	New York, Dec. 16.
Previous Closing	21.93
To-day's Opening	21.92
Difference	—01
To-day's Closing	21.90
Difference	—03

Fighting In Progress, Says Tokyo Radio

NIMITZ ON HIS NEW HEADQUARTERS: MANILA RAIDED

LONDON, December 16.

A Tokyo radio broadcast picked up in San Francisco said that an American Division of more than 15,000 men landed at Tablos Bay on the south-western tip of Mindoro island. The radio said that the division landed near San Jose.

It added that Japanese garrison units had intercepted American forces and "fighting is now in progress".

The Japanese-held Philippines' territory has been cut in two The landings were virtually unopposed.

The new move gives General MacArthur control of Manila Bay flank.

Guerrilla forces have launched an aggressive offensive in Mindanao, Panny, Negros, Cebu, Bohol and Sulu islands. They are liberating the entire provinces and also capturing airfields. They are pinning down and besieging the Japanese throughout western Visayas.

The communique says the landing "will enable us to dominate the sea and air routes which reach to the China coast."

As the landing forces met no ground opposition, casualties were light.

After neutralising all Japanese air bases in the Philippines, in the course of which the Japanese lost 224 planes American forces have landed on Mindoro, one of the larger islands north-west of Leyte, while guerillas have launched offensives in half a dozen other islands between Leyte and Mindoro and south-west of Leyte, in the direction of Borneo.

Mindanao is the largest island in the southern Philippines. Cebu, Bohol and Negros are situated to the west and north-west of Leyte, with Panay further north. The Sulu Archipelago is about 400 miles south-west of Leyte between Mindanao and north Borneo.

MANILA RAIDED

LONDON: The Japanese news agency reported that Manila capital of the Philippines was raided today.—Reuter.

NIMITZ ON HIS NEW HQS.

NEW YORK, Dec 16.

The radio said that Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific has revealed that he will soon establish advanced Headquarters in the forward area to be closer to the actual Pacific fighting front.

Fierce Battle Raging Off Mindanao

The Japanese News Agency stated on Saturday that a fierce air sea battle is raging in the Sulu Sea, west of Mindanao, in the Philippines as Japanese planes attack the Allied task force which pushed through Mindanao Strait on Thursday escorting a large convoy.

"The appearance of this task force is a sign pointing to a new development of the greatest magnitude in the military situation of the Philippines" the Agency said. "While the objective of this enemy action still remains to be seen it is evident that the enemy is seeking to break the stalemate of the military situation on the Leyte front. through extension of the battlefront further to the west.

Another development is the appearance of other enemy task forces in waters east of Luzon.

"Cease-Fire" Order For ELAS?

ATHENS, December 16.

According to Greek sources in contact with the Left Wing, the EAM are understood to have agreed to evacuate Attica in their reply to General Ronald Scobie's terms of truce.

Orders will be issued to all ELAS supporters in the Athens and Piraeus area to cease resistance and hand in their arms.

At the same time the reply is believed to have formulated certain conditions' including one for the withdrawal of the Greek mountain brigade to outside the Athens area.

The British and Greek Regular Forces have captured approximately 2,800 prisoners since the fighting began, it was announced today. Some of these may not be actually members of the ELAS forces and they are being examined for a possibility of release. Other prisoners have been taken by the Greek police and National Guard but their number is unknown.

The ELAS are estimated to have suffered at least 1,000 casualties to date including 600 dead. This total does not include casualties through air action.—

CLEARING AREAS OF PIRAEUS

General Scobie's 'communique' said, "Good progress have been made in clearing the areas of Pireaus and last night our troops cleared a strongly held feature east of the main harbour."

Four people were killed and 12 wounded when a mortar shell fell in the main street of Athens to-day. It dropped among a crowd of civilians who were searching for food during the city's midday Curfew break.—Reuter.

Indore Bar Association Fined!

FOUND GUILTY OF CONTEMPT OF COURT

INDORE Dec. 16.

Delivering judgment in the contempt of Court case launched against the Indore Bar Association a full Bench of the Indore High Court consisting of Chief justice Mr. L. B Jambhekar and Justices N. B. Rege and V. M. Mehta ordered it to pay a fine of Rs. 500 within a week. All the three Judges have delivered separate judgments agreeing on the sentences. It is believed that this is the first instance in the judicial administration of India when a Bar Association as a whole has been found guilty of contempt of court.

It will be recalled that the case arose out of a resolution passed 'nem con' at an extraordinary general meeting of the Indore Bar Association held in camera on November 6, which amounted to a vote of censure against the Chief Justice of the Indore High Court, Rai Bahadur Rangilal as a sequel to which the Chief Justice tendered his resignation which was duly accepted by H. H. the Maharaja of Indore and moved the High Court to launch a contempt of court against the Bar Association and the mover and the seconder of the resolution.—United Press.

Chinese Recapture Tashantang

LONDON, Dec. 16.

The Chungking "communique" states that on the Kwangsi Front, Chinese forces driving on Hochih re-captured Tashantang, about five miles north-west of Hochih on the night of December 14.

Chinese troops also reached Chang Poyu 12 miles west of Hochih, where fighting is proceeding.

In flanking the attack Chinese troops dislodged the Japanese from Panopingya about 20 miles south-east of Hochih.—Reuter

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Civilian Production Ordered To Be Frozen

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16: In a new drastic move to meet war needs, the War Production Board to-day has ordered all civilian production to be 'frozen' indefinitely.—Reuter.

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CHINA IS UNCONQUERED AND UNCONQUERABLE

U. S. Ambassador Denies U. S. Pressure On China

CHUNGKING, Dec. 15.

The American Ambassador to China, Mr. Patrick A. Hurley said today that there had been no American pressure against China, and rumours to this effect came from sources other than the Allies.

Government changes were responsible for the fact that Marshal Chiang-kai Shek and American military and embassy were all one team with one objective—defeat of Japan All his negotiations with Marshal Chiang-kai Shek had been cordial.

Mr. Hurley disclosed that he visited Yennan in north-west China in connection with negotiations between the Chinese Government and the Communists, but declined to make any comment.

Regarding statements by Senators Chandler and Brewster that only a miracle could save China from collapse, Mr. Hurley declared, "My opinion is China is unconquered. I have no qualms about her victory".—Reuter.

Allied Advance In Italy

(Advanced Allied Hqrs.) Mediterranean (Saturday): To-day's "communique" said: "Army: Canadian troops of the Eighth Army have extended their bridgehead over Canale Naviglio against very stiff resistance and a number of enemy counter-attacks against the bridgehead have been repulsed.

Punjab Assembly Speaker Retracts It

LAHORE, Dec. 15.

In the Punjab Assembly this morning, the Speaker, Sir Sahabuddin, announced that he had cancelled his wrong ruling given the other day as he found no authority to bind him to take the consent of the House in order to revise his previous ruling if he subsequently found it wrong.

The Speaker gave a ruling early in the present session of the Assembly on adjournment motions brought forward by the Opposition on restrictions imposed on released Congress members of the Punjab Assembly declaring them out of order Yesterday the Speaker told the House that this ruling of his was wrong but he could not abrogate it without the consent of the House. On this interpretation of his powers, the Speaker ruled out eight adjournment motions given notice of by the Opposition yesterday and day before. The Speaker now held that his previous ruling was hurriedly given.

Leave for an adjournment motion to discuss the collections made for the Zamindara League was admitted and the motion will be discussed to-day.—United Press.

BAIKUNTHPUR, Dec. 12.

The marriage of the Heir-Apparent of the Korea State, Prince Bhupendra Narayan Singh Deo, with the Princess of Wadhwan State in the Western India States Agency has been announced.

The marriage will take place at Wadhwan on February 6, 7945. The Tilak ceremony in connection with the marriage was held at Baikunthpur, the Capital of the Korea State with great eclat at which His Highness the Thakore Saheb of Wadhwan was present.

ALLIED SQUEEZE ON HITLER'S FORTRESS

A WEEK OF WAR By N. G. Jog

DECEMBER, 15.

With the American Seventh Army approaching the important frontier town of Lanterbourg, five Allied armies are now fighting inside the German frontier.

It is an impressive sight, even though their progress beyond the German frontier is a painfully slow affair. During the last week, the Seventh Army profited by a weak spot in the German defences and made a record spurt of eight miles. But now that he has reached the frontier itself, it remains to be seen whether General Patch can maintain his tempo anywhere along the 35-mile front on which he is advancing. Karlsruhe is a rich prize beckoning him just beyond the border.

It was however the offensive launched by General Hodges's First Army last Sunday morning, which held the centre of the stage during the week. The main strategic objective of General Hodges is, of course, to establish bridgeheads over the Roer river, after clearing the enemy from its western bank. The focal point of the first Army's advance is Duren, anchor city of the enemy's defence line on the Roer and a key town on the road to Cologne.

Battle Of Roer

After bitter fighting General Hodges has advanced through wooded country and German pill-boxes and mine-fields to within one mile of Duren. His men can now see through their field glasses the ancient spires of the Cathedral City. While south-west of Duren, the Seventh Army is nearing Kasternich, in the north it has cleared most of the German strong-points as also the Aachen-Cologne "autobahn", one of the principal motor-roads of Hitler, right upto the river. The capture of this super highway will facilitate the Allied drive into the Cologne plain.

Complimentary to the spurt of the First Army was the activity of the American Ninth Army in the area south of Julich. General Simpson quickly captured the village of Vichhogen and has to a large extent cleared the triangle between the Inde and the Roer rivers. He has thus strengthened his hold on the western bank of the Roer and linked his forces with that of General Hodges further south.

German resistance already shows signs of weakening and Rundstedt's main anxiety seems to be to withdraw his forces beyond the river, while the going is good. The Roer has risen three feet within the last week and it provides a formidable barrier. German troops are already in position on the eastern bank and the crossing of the river will be a none-too-easy operation.

Not An Apt Parallel

Certain strategists consider the present situation on the Roer similar to that before the Allied break-through at St. Lo in the middle of July last, which resulted in a great Allied sweep through France. It must be remembered, however, that the Germans have now no occupied space to surrender and that the mighty Rhine still lies in the Allied path. In their headlong retreat in July last the Wehrmacht mainly wanted to withdraw intact to its own long-prepared Siegfried fortifications.

The events of the last four months have proved that it was a wise move, which has entirely justified itself. It would be, therefore, too optimistic to expect history to repeat itself. At the most the present Allied momentum may carry them right upto the Rhine. In spite of the severe losses suffered, German resistance is becoming stiffer and they are even passing from the defensive to the counter-offensive as in the Colmar pocket. One should not, therefore, expect any spectacular results even after the Roer is in the Allied rear.

This is exactly what is happening on the Third Army front. Though General Patton has a number of bridgeheads over the Saar, he is meeting with fanatical resistance all along his 30-mile front. Bitter fighting is taking place in the suburbs of Saarlautern and north of Dillingen. The defenders are not content to sit tight in the Siegfried Line. They are adopting aggressive tactics and frequently recapture their lost forward positions and even lost villages.

Revealing Propaganda

All this is, of course, to be expected considering how much the iron and coal of the Saar basin mean to the German war industry. Hitler may as well fight his last decisive battle here as anywhere else, even though the spectre of dwindling man-power stares him in the face. Even supply troops are being pressed into the fighting line on the Roer and in the Saar in a vain bid to stem the Allied flood-tide.

The importance of the mines and industries of the Ruhr and Rhineland in German eyes is strikingly revealed by the propaganda line Dr. Goebbels is adopting. He is boasting that German concentration in the north is so strong that "the Allied attempt to reach the coal and traffic centres of the north German plains has little chance of success." The inclusion of traffic centres is significant in view of the regular blitz which the Allied air force has started over German communications and rail heads.

As General Eisenhower tightens up the screw all along the five hundred miles of the Western Front, the German man-power veneer apparently becomes thinner and thinner. Rundstedt in spite of his determined and resourceful defence has simply neither the men nor the means at his command to hold the entire perimeter. For example, Field Marshal Montgomery's front is unaccountably quiet for a long time now and the British Second Army seems to have well-nigh shot its bolt. But Rundstedt dare not denude that sector. German strategists seem somehow obsessed by the fact that the final Allied blow will be launched from the Nijmegen sector and they are keeping a watchful eye on it in spite of the present long continued lull.

Impending Collapse

Geography and climate are both helping the defenders at present. Bad weather and the consequent mud are more than neutralising Allied superiority in armour and restricting the operations of Allied air force. The Siegfried fortifications are also a formidable factor, which the Allies have to tackle. But in the end by sheer overwhelming weight, the Allies are bound to crack the enemy, though the crack may occur at an unexpected place.

Hitler's spokesmen cannot altogether hide this dark possibility from the German public, howsoever confident they may profess themselves to be.

In a recent military review Dr. Max Krull wrote: "The enemy's attacks on the western front, which, with increasing waste of material, are getting more furious every day and which are putting the German front to a breaking test of the greatest violence, are a gamble between premature consumption of weapons and ammunition and supplies and ultimate success in wearing out the German armed forces in their western positions."

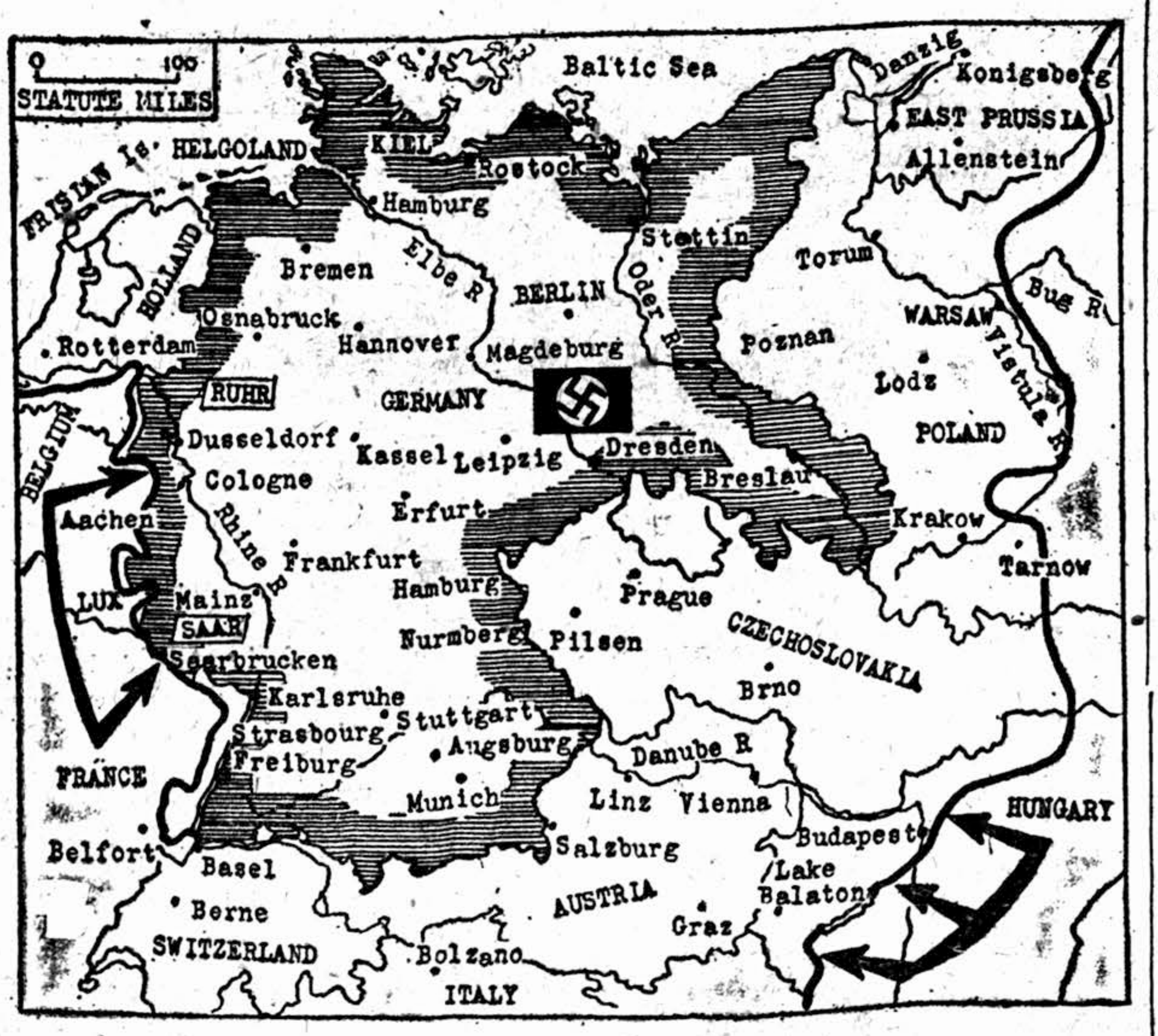
Dr. Krull was referring to the Western Front but he could not have been unmindful of what is happening on the Eastern and Southern fronts. There also the strain is becoming unbearable, as the Red Army sweeps on in a series of masterly pincers. Budapest is finally doomed in spite of the great number of reinforcements the Germans poured in to save their last Balkan bastion.

General Malinovsky's break-through north of Budapest has smashed the gates of Vienna. North-west of Miskolcs the Red Army has entered Hungary's richest mineral region, containing coal, iron and manganese. In the south furious fighting is developing round the shores of Lake Balatan, while the last remaining lines of withdrawal of the German garrison in Yugoslavia are being sealed off. A complete collape is thus imminent on the southern front, while the German frantically prepare for the battle of Austria.

De Gaulle's Master Stroke

While Britain is already showing signs in Greece of losing the peace after having so heroically won the war—almost,—France, after having so utterly lost the war, has begun laying the firm foundations of peace. De Gaulle's visit to Moscow has borne immediate fruit in the Franco-Soviet Pact. Its terms are still not divulged, which itself is an indication that they are substantial and far-reaching.

De Gaulle's is a shrewd act of statesmanship. At one stroke he has put France in her proper place on the European chess-board as also strengthened his own position vis-a-vis Britain and the United States. The Allies are reported to have extended their full support to the Pact, but the initiative seems to have been mainly de Gaulle's. Apart from anything else, this entente with Stalin will put him right in the eyes of radicals and communists in France itself and thus enable him to avoid the pitfalls in which the Governments of liberated countries are falling.



Sir Homi Mody's Defence Of The Pentangular

By J. C. MAITRA

At the tenth annual general meeting of the Cricket Club of India, Sir Homi Mody, the President, is reported to have made the following observations in connection with the Pentangular:—

"I cannot close this review without a reference to the most interesting and exciting sporting event that has just come to a close. The Pentangular was heralded by the usual denunciations and appeals to boycott it. We have a set of critics in Bombay who have no eyes or ears for the many communal institutions which flourish in our midst and the many communal fixtures that are staged throughout the country. The gaze of these people is fixed upon the Pentangular and they return again and again so the attack."

"The sporting public of Bombay has given" Sir Homi asserted, "a most convincing and resounding answer to their charge that the Pentangular breeds communalism and racial ill-feeling. Never in the whole history of cricket in this country have such enormous and enthusiastic crowds been seen. There was an atmosphere of tenseness at many stages; to a certain extent, there was partisanship, inevitable and legitimate in the circumstances. Not a head was broken however nor a tooth knocked out. There was great good humour throughout the proceedings and keenness and enthusiasm which have to be seen to be believed. I say to the critics. For goodness sake, stop this vendetta against the Pentangular and turn to the things that really matter in the creation of a better feeling amongst the various communities."

DANGEROUS POSSIBILITIES.

It was only last week I had written on the Pentangular. So I had no intention of returning to the attack so soon. But Sir Homi has invited the critics either to defend themselves or surrender. There is really nothing new in what Sir Homi has said. He has merely repeated all the old arguments in favour of this communal show. It is perfectly true that "there was not a broken head or a tooth knocked out." But there was every possibility of such things happening if the Parsis had succeeded in drawing their tie with the Hindus and then in winning the toss for the final. There was such a chance also in the final, if the Muslims had been deprived of the Championship at the last moment owing to an accident or injury to K. C. Ibrahim.

THE DIFFERENCE.

As long as the contests go on smoothly, nothing happens. It is only when extreme disappointment is caused to one side or the other, especially on account of the "unfair" tactics—"unfair" in the opinion of the losers of course—that unpleasant things happen. It is not uncommon in non-communal matches. But there is a big difference between the two cases. In the latter event, short-tempered partisans give themselves away. But no sooner than the heat of the moment is passed they forget all about it. In the former case, however, it takes a communal turn and free-fights ensue between members of the rival communities. The heat goes beyond the arena of the match and travels through the lanes and by-lanes of the city. It was almost an annual affair between the Hindus and the Parsis in the past when they were strong rivals.

CHIEF TARGET.

It is the duty of the men like Sir Homi Mody to see that such clashes do not take place between the Hindus and the Muslims at this stage of communal rivalry and jealousy. Under the present tension a small spark may start a conflagration, which must be avoided at all cost. The reason why the Pentangular is

(Continued on Page 14)

CITY AND SUBURBS

To-day

Hindu: Posh Shud 2, 2001.
Muslim: Zilhej 30, 1363.
Parsi: Tir 15, 1314
Sunrise: 8-5 a.m. Sunset 7-5 p.m.
Hightide: 2-09, 13-50
Lowtide: 8-12, 19-54.

To-day's Engagements

PRARTHANA SAMAJ: Prof. R. Pratapgiri will conduct Divine Service to-day (Sunday), at the Prarthana Samaj, Girgaum, at 5-30 p.m.

BOMBAY TAMIL SANGAM, MATUNGA: A general meeting will be held at South Indian Education Society High School, at 10 a.m. to-day (Sunday).

IMPERIAL HIGH SCHOOL: Annual sports and social gathering at 4-30 p.m., to-day (Sunday). Mr. Justice Chagla to preside.

UNITED LODGE OF THEOSOPHISTS: Jehangir Wadia Building. Lecture on "From Instinct to Inspiration", 6-15 p.m., to-day (Sunday).

BENGAL CLUB LITERARY SECTION: A public meeting will be held at the A. C. Chatterjee Memorial Hall, Anglo-Bengali School, Naigaum, on Sunday (to-day), at 7 p.m.

BOMBAY SPIRITUAL CENTRE: Third anniversary celebration under the presidentship of Sri Chintamani S. Trilokekar, Wassoodev Bhavan, Laburnum Road, Gamdevi, 5 p.m.

HANSRAJ PUBLIC SCHOOL: Fourth Annual Sport on the playground in front of 'The Clifflet' Worli, from 4 p.m. to 7-30 p.m., to-day (Sunday), Mr. K. M. Munshi will preside and Mrs Lilavati Munshi will distribute prizes.

RAHBAR MOHARRUM SERIES: Miss Z. Hameed will speak on Education of women, at 5-30 p.m. and Maulavi Kamruddin, at 6-15 p.m., to-day (Sunday), at Municipal Marathi School, near Napoo Baug opposite Derby Talkies.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY of the G. E. I.'s Chabildas Lulloobhoy Boys' High School, Dadar, in the School Compound to-day (Sunday), at 5 p.m. (N. S. T.). Mr. Radhakrishna S. Khaitan, to preside and distribute prizes.

O. S. U. ANTONIO D'SOUZA HIGH SCHOOL: Under the auspices of the above Union a debate will be held to-day (Sunday), at 10-30 a.m. Subject: "Dowry System should be Legally Abolished". Professor J. J. F. Dias will preside.

RADICAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, BOMBAY: Peoples' Convention ('G.' Ward), two processions in Dadar and Saitanchowky at 5-30 p.m. and Mass meeting, at 6-30 p.m., to-day (Sunday), at the Brahmin Sahayyak Sangh near Shivaji Park, Dadar.

MAHARASHTRA UTKASHA MANDAL: Public lecture and a debate on "Modern Banking in Maharashtra", to-day (Sunday), at 4-15 p.m., at Marwadi Vidyalaya Hall, Sandhurst Road. Prof. Muranjan, will be the principal speaker.

INTER-RELIGIOUS CONVENTION: A provisional meeting of the representatives of various religious bodies and sympathisers will be held to-day (Sunday), at 10 a.m., at Ramakrishna Vivekananda Centre, 64, Portuguese Church Street, Dadar, to discuss matters regarding the Inter-Religious Convention which is to be held in January 1945.

KANARA SARASWAT ASSOCIATION: Debate on "Gandhism alone can bring about a stable world-order", at 5-0 p.m. (N. S. T.), to-day (Sunday), the Association Hall, Talmakiwadi, Tardeo, Mr. T. Nageshrao will propose and Mr. L. B. Rao will propose Prof. V. Y. Kanthak, of Wilson College will preside.

GHATKOPAR MUNICIPAL PHYSICAL CULTURE DAY CELEBRATIONS: The Final events in the Ghatkopar Municipal Physical Culture Day sports competitions will be held to-day (Sunday), from 3-0 p.m., at Seth Dhaji Deshi Rashtriya Shala Playground Ghatkopar, and the Public Gathering to distribute prizes to winners in these sports will be held at the same place to-day from 5-30 to 7 p.m., under the Presidentship of Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta.

Jinnah For Bombay

NEW DELHI, Dec. 16.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah accompanied by Miss Fatima Jinnah left for Bombay today by the Frontier Mail.—A. P.

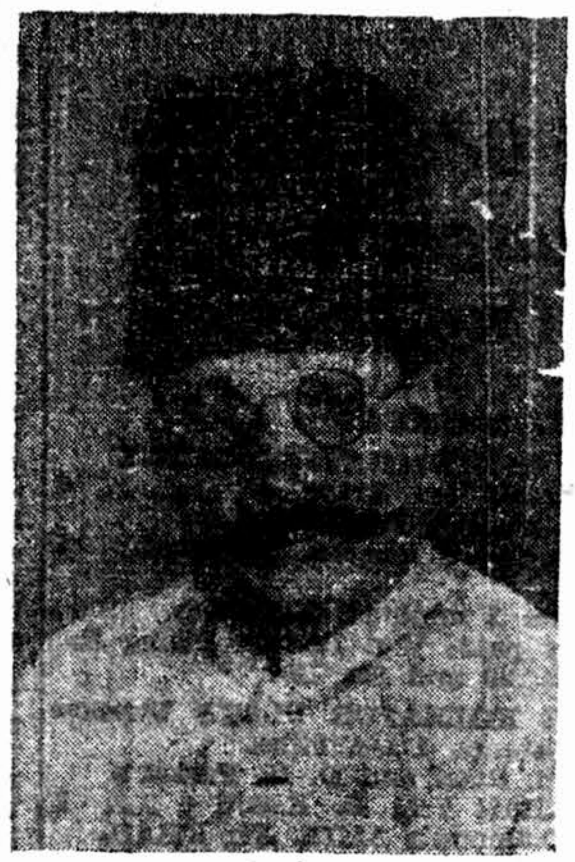
TO-DAY ON RADIO

SUNDAY, Dec. 17.

BOMBAY—1.

244 m. (1,231 kc/s)—8-0 a.m. News (H). 8-15 News (E). 8-30 Music from Movies. 8-50 News (M). 9-0 News (G). 9-10 To-morrow. 9-15 Mulchand J. Nayak. 9-30 R. A. Painganker: Flute. 9-45 Naraharibuwa Patankar. 10-15 Bhavgeet. 11-0 AIR Orchestra 11-20 Moghubai Kurdikar. 12-0 Sitar.

12-15 p.m. Mulchand J. Nayak. 12-30 Gulab Bai. 12-40 News (M). 12-50 News (G). 12-55 News (H). 1-0 Film Music. 1-30 News (E). 1-40 Lunch Music. 5-0 Naraharibuwa Patankar. 5-35 R. A. Painganker. 5-55 Locals. 6-0 L. G. Bartake. 6-20 AIR Trio. 6-30 News (E). 6-40 News (H). 6-45 Gulab Bai. 7-5 Gat Tora on Tabla. 7-15 Gujarati Geet. 7-30 L. G. Bartake. 7-50 R. A. Painganker: Flute. 8-5 Bhajans. 8-15 News (M). 8-30 News (G). 8-45 Let Us Play You Something. 9-0 News (H). 9-20 News (E). 9-30 B. B. C. News. 9-45 Promise and Performance (E). 10-0 A Mozart Programme.



Munshi Fatehkhan "Dilkush", editor of Gujarati paper "Insaf".

"Insaf", the Gujarati daily, edited by Munshi Fatehkhan "Dilkush" has completed twenty-five years of its existence. Its silver jubilee will shortly be celebrated meanwhile Munshi Fatehkhan has been the recipient of many congratulatory messages on the happy occasion.

Third Day's Programme Of Festival Of Drama

BOMBAY, Saturday.

Histrionic art of a high order was in evidence again on the stage of the Xavier's College to-day, the third day of Bombay's grand festival of drama known as the Lovji Cama Dramatic Competition.

Works of Indian dramatists figured again during the programme, Harindranath Chattopadhyaya's "Return from abroad" being very much appreciated. Ado Marzban's "we are the fallen", and Lily Anklesaria's "A legend from the Illiad" came in for due appreciation by the audience.

"A marriage has been arranged" by Alfred Sutro, "Progress" by St. John Ervine, "Julius Ceasar" by Shakespeare and "Chanson Triste" by A. W. Wills were the other plays which served as medium for the art of young amateur actors and actresses of the city.

The honours of the evening were shared by Lily Anklesaria, Rusi Billimoria, Rusi Sethna, Piloo Umrigar, Mehra Lawyer, Maki Seervai and Mick D'Souza who were all assisted by others in each item.

R. A. F. EXERCISES

BOMBAY, Saturday.

In modification of the previous notice, the Director of Public Information informs the "United Press" that exercises by the R. A. F. heavy bombers in the vicinity of Bombay will be held on Monday afternoon.—United Press.

BOMBAY COLOUR & CHEMICAL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the Bombay Colour and Chemical Merchants Association, Bombay, was held on Saturday and the following Office-bearers were elected.

Mr. Ranchhoddas Karsondas Rangwala, (President); Mr. Nariman M. Dadachanji and Mr. Chotubhai Dhwarkadas Mehta, (Vice-Presidents); Mr. Muljibhai Somabhai and Mr. Gitendra Motilal Desai, (Secretaries); Mr. Kantilal N. Shah and Mr. Narsidas D. Sariah, (Treasurers); and 12 Members in the Managing Committee.

JAIL DELIVERY ORDERED IN U. P.

Six Hundred To Be Released: Socialists And Forward Blockists Excluded

ALLAHABAD, Dec. 16.

The "Leader" reports from a special correspondent that it is understood more than 600 political prisoners will be released from U. P. jails at an early date. It is stated that orders have been passed to this effect and that the release will begin after the first week of January. Congress Socialists and Forward Blockists are excluded from the list, the report says.

Recently a meeting of the C.I.D. Chiefs of the various districts was held at Lucknow where the above decision was arrived at.—A. P.

MALABAR DETENU RELEASED

MADRAS Dec. 16.

The Government of Madras have ordered the release of one detenu. Mr. Raghava Menon of Malabar from the Vellore Jail.—A. P.

Gandhiji Reading Books About Muslim Saints

WARDHA, Dec. 16.

Gandhiji was forced to undertake the "work fast" not because of ill-health or a sense of mental frustration but owing to the crushing pressure of daily interviews and his ever increasing correspondence said Principal Agarwal in an interview to the 'Associated Press' to-day.

Principal Agarwal, with whom Gandhiji stayed for four days feels that the public should make it a rule to seek interviews with Gandhiji only when they must and write only when absolutely necessary.

As Mahatmaji looked better after his four-day change at Wardha he will return next week for a stay which will help him to recover his normal health and mental vigour.

Gandhiji is reading Urdu books on Muslim saints daily.—A. P.

Sushila Nair Wants Gandhiji To Stay At Wardha

SEVAGRAM, Dec. 16.

The short Wardha trip seems to have had a better effect on Gandhiji's health. Dr. Sushila Nair expressed her satisfaction at the improvement the Mahatma has made in his health in Wardha and she appears to be of the opinion that Gandhiji should once again go to Wardha and spend more time there during the period of his "work fast." It is understood Gandhiji may again go to Wardha next week.—United Press.

Gandhiji To Open National Education Conference

SEWAGRAM, Dec. 16.

Mahatma Gandhi will open the National Education Conference in Sewagram on January 11. The conference will review the work of Basic Education in the past six years and plan a complete programme of National Education in all stages.

The conference is scheduled for four days.—A. P.

S. K. PATIL IN MADRAS.

MADRAS, Dec. 15: Mr. S. K. Patil Secretary to the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, and President-elect of the conference of Congress representatives and workers to be held at Ariyalur, arrived here this evening. He was received at the Central Station by a large gathering of Congress workers.—A. P.

Gadgil To Preside Over C. P. Students Conference

POONA, Dec. 15.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil, President of the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee, has agreed to preside over the C. P. and Berar Students' Conference to be held at Amraoti on December 24th and 25th. He will leave Poona for the Conference on 22.—A. P.

Prices Of Books, Magazines Etc. To Be Marked On Copies

By a Notification issued under the the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance and in supersession of previous notifications issued in this connection, the Controller-General of Civil Supplies has directed every publisher to mark on each copy (not on the dust-cover) of any book, pamphlet, magazine, periodical, or other publication issued by him, the retail sale price of it, or if the copy is not intended for sale, the word "gratis". Every dealer has been directed to mark on each copy of any book, pamphlet, magazine, periodical or other publication kept by him for sale, the retail sale price of it, if the publisher has omitted to mark it or if the price marked by the publisher is expressed otherwise than in Indian currency.

NEW LEAGUE CANDIDATES FOR SIND BYE-ELECTION

KARACHI, Dec. 16.

On account of the last minute developments three of the five members of the Sind Muslim League Parliamentary Board met at Sukkur yesterday and nominated Khan Bahadur Nizamuddin as League's official candidate for the Sind Assembly bye-election from the Shikarpur constituency in place of Mr. Ghulam Nabi Pathan, Vice-President of the Sind Provincial Muslim League, originally selected by the Board. Mr. Pathan has accordingly withdrawn.

Mr. G. M. Syed, President of the Sind Muslim League, has informed Mr. Jinnah of these developments.—A. P.

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Ranji Trophy

BARODA PUT UP 314 AT POONA

Hazare (Sr.) Scores 127

POONA, Dec. 16.

The second round of the West Zone Ranji Trophy match between Maharashtra and Baroda commenced here this morning on the Poona Club grounds on a perfect wicket. Baroda having won the toss elected to bat and were all out for 314 runs.

SCORES:

BARODA (First Innings)

Y Sheikh b Sohoni 7; V. N. Raiji l.b.w. Jadhav 68; H. Adhikari l.b.w. Jadhav 7; V. S. Hazare (Sr.) c Gokhale b Jadhav 127; Gul Mohamed run out 26; R B. Nimbalkar b Gazali 2; A. H. Mirchandani c Deodhar b Sohoni 16; S. G. Powar c Pandit b Shinde 10; M. M. Naidu c Deodhar b Shinde 17; V. S. Hazare (Jr.) l.b.w. b Shinde 4; Amir Elahi not out 23. Extras 7. Total 314.

Bowling Analysis: Sohoni 20/5/51/2, Gazali 15/3/52/1, Jadhav 27/6/64/3, Shinde 20.4/2/93/3, and Rege 9/1/47/0.

MAHARASHTRA (First Innings)

Pandit b Hazare 0; Rege batting 3, Gazali batting 11. Extra one. Total (for one wicket) 15.

Jayantilal Takes 5 for 37 Against Gujerat

AHMEDABAD, Dec. 16.

On the second day of the match between Gujarat and Western India States Cricket Association in the West Zone of the Ranji Trophy Tournament, Gujarat in their first innings were skittled out for 140 runs.

W.I.S.C.A. in their second innings had put up 129 for the loss of five wickets.

SCORES:

GUJARAT (First Innings)

Parikh b Nyalchand 19; Allimuddin c Gandhi b Jayantilal 54; Prithviraj l.b.w. Jayantilal 3; Phiroze Khambatta b Jayantilal 0; Vinoo Mankad c Ismail b Jayantilal 1; K. P. Kesari b Nyalchand 1; B. G. Patel b Jayantilal 21; M. S. Balooch c Girdhari b Nyalchand 1; R. G. Hazare b Nyalchand 0, U. R. Chippa not out 12; J. Patel c Jayantilal b Girdhari 4. Extras 24. Total 140.

Bowling Analysis: S. Gandhi 11/1/27/0, Jayantilal 23/7/37/5, Girdhari 14/6/19/1 and Nyalchand 23/7/33/4.

W.I.S.C.A. (Second Innings)

Prataprai l.b.w. J. Patel 23; Jayantilal c Hazare b Chippa 11, Ramniklal l.b.w. J. Patel 24. Shantilal Gandhi run out 4; Purushottam c Khambatta b J. Patel 0; Girdhari batting 37; Rathod batting 19. Extras 10. Total (for five wickets) 129.

Fall of wickets: 1/33, 2/57, 3/68, 4/68, 5/74.

Holkar Win By Innings And 140 Runs

JAMSHEDPUR, Dec. 16.

Holkar won by an innings and 140 runs against Bihar in their first round match in the East Zone of the Cricket Championship of India here to-day.

Holkar were all out in their first innings for 389 before the lunch interval. Bihar's first innings concluded at 3-10 p.m. for 158 runs and in their second knock could score only 91 runs.

All-India Weather Chart

POONA, Dec. 16: The following is the weather chart showing maximum and minimum temperatures and rainfall in inches recorded at nine hours I. M. T. on 13/12/44:—

Allahabad 76 45 0, BOMBAY 90 72 0, Calcutta 83 58 0, Cawnpore 75 42 0, Cuttack 87 60 0, Darjeeling 52 40 0, Delhi 73 41 0, Dehra Dun 75 46 0, Jacobabad 76 44 0, Karachi 82 60 0, Lahore 71 39 0, Madras 82 72 0.1, Nagpur 85 59 0, Patna 77 53 0, Peshawar 68 41 0, Shillong 61 30 0, Simla 60 40 0.—A. P.

Sal Bartolo 126 pounds, retained the N. B. A. featherweight title by cleanly outpointing Willie Roache, 125 pounds, in a 15 round fight in Boston, U. S. A.

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Bombay Races

King's Jester Beats Odds On By Hairbreadth Margin In Idar Gold Cup

From Our Racing Correspondent

There was a considerable increase in the attendance at Mahaluxmi when the double attraction, the Idar Gold Cup and the C. N. Wadia Gold Cup were put on action. The former rich event was won by hairbreadth margin by the Gaekwar of Baroda's King's Jester from the Maharaja of Kashmir's Odds On. The winner was the rage in the race but the runner-up was also closely following him in the betting.

Sir Homi Mehta's feather-weighted Indianbred Yawar under the clever guidance of the Indian Jockey, Khade, defeated the lot of our reputed stayers when scoring fashionably in the race for the C. N. Wadia Gold Cup but unfortunately he was far from considered and paid Rs. 294 for each winning ticket.

Punters fared badly from the very beginning and ended against expectations.

Britt was in form. He rode three winners but his followers had lean times as he also failed to figure in the picture on a couple of greatly fancied candidates. Trainer Chotani pulled out a rich double through the medium of Lustre in the opening event and Dhiban later in the evening. Apprentice Jockey, Khalil was astride both the winners.

The following are the results:—

THE SHAHPUR PLATE Division III—Distance 7 furlongs.

Mr. Alimahomed Chotani's LUSTRE 8-2 B. Khalil 1
Mr. P. F. Finnigan's STAR HUNT 9-0 Virsingh 2
H. H. Maharani Chimnabai's PRINCESS CHITRA 9-4 Mohd. Khan 3
Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Thadani's FALSE PRIDE 8-0 Bhimrao 4

Not run: What a Man, Bajirao.

Won by: Hd, Nk, 3/4.

Time: 1 minute 32 seconds.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 89. Places Rs. 25, Rs. 32 and Rs. 21.

THE BUSHIRE PLATE—Distance 1 1/2 miles.

Mr. R. P. Ebrahim's FLOWER OF CALCUTTA 8-10 Britt 1
Mr. J. A. Abdulezer's WALDYE 8-1 Sibbritt 2
Mah. Kumar of Morvi's PRINCESS HAMIYAH 9-0 Evans 3
Mr. J. D. Banatwalla's BLACK HUSSAR 9-0 K. Hasan 4

All ran.

Won by: S-hd, 1 1/4 lengths, 1 1/2 lengths.

Time: 3 minutes 8 4/5 seconds.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 59 Places Rs. 18, Rs. 13 and Rs. 22.

THE SHAHPUR PLATE Division II—Distance 7 furlongs.

H. H. Maharaja of Baroda's LITTLE CAESAR 9-2 Britt 1
Maharani Chimnabai and Maharaja of Cooch Behar's PRINCE BULAND 8-7 Roberts 2
Mr. R. J. Sigtia's SOLAR KISS 8-12 Evans 3
M/s B. Patel and Parker's NEELAM 9-2 Raffaele 4

Not run: Good Fun, Princess Mary, Princess Padma, So What, Rainbow, Gold Mohar, Mubashshir.

Won by: 1 length, 1 1/2 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 1 minute 29 3/5 seconds.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 33. Places Rs. 15, Rs. 14 and Rs. 21.

THE BATHURST PLATE—Distance 1 1/4 miles.

Mr. M. D. Petit's KOTOR 8-13 Evans 1
Mr. F. H. Mehta's BIG JOY 9-0 Roberts 2
Maharaja of Parlakimedi's PRINCE ARIEL 8-7 Sibbritt 3
Mri. G. A. Jasdanwalla's MISTY ISLAND 8-4 Brace 4

Not run: Torch Royal.

Won by: 2 lengths, 1 length, 1 length.

Time: 2 minutes 12 seconds.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 49. Places Rs. 20, Rs. 29 and Rs. 19.

THE KOLHAPUR PLATE Division II—Distance 1 1/4 miles.

M/s B. Patel and D. K. Parkar's DHIBAN 7-11 B. Khalil 1
Mr. Diamond's AMIR AL KHAIL 8-5 A. Ahmed 2
Mr. G. A. W. Wilkin's TAMIM AL KHAIR 8-3 Dasrath Singh 3
Mr. Saleh Moosa's NIGHT HAWK 8-9 Bhoor Singh 4

Not run: General, Mozan.

Won by: Neck, 1 length, 2 1/2 lengths.

Time: 2 minutes 22 3/5 seconds.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 58. Places Rs. 20, Rs. 18 and Rs. 57.

THE IDAR GOLD CUP—Distance 7 furlongs.

H. H. Maharaja of Baroda's KING'S JESTER 8-11 Britt 1
H. H. Maharaja of Kashmir's ODDS ON 8-4 Jones 2
Messrs. Hope and Chandulal J. Shah's SUNBATHING 8-7 Kheem Singh 3
H. H. Maharaja of Idar's WHAT AGAIN 8-7 Brace 4

Not run: Titbit, Silver Phantom, Padmanagar's Choice, Namastay Mahableshwar, A Little Sherry, Irish Right, Promise Me, Rosebud.

Won by: S-hd Hd, 1 length.

Time: 1 minute 28 2/5 seconds.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 32. Places Rs. 17, Rs. 15 and Rs. 41.

THE C. N. WADIA GOLD CUP—Distance 1 1/4 miles.

Sir Homi Mehta's YAWAR 7-4 Khade 1
Mrs. Justice's HAUT TON 8-2 Kheem Singh 2
Maharani of Kolhapur's CHANAK 8-4 Rook 3
Rao Bahadur D. A. Surve's WONDERFUL 8-0 West 4

Not run: Baqlava.

Won by: 1 1/2 lengths, 3 1/2 lengths, 1 length.

Time: 2 minutes 6 seconds.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 294. Places Rs. 67, Rs. 56 and Rs. 144.

THE KOLHAPUR PLATE Division I—Distance 1 1/4 miles.

M/s Minzley and Badruddin's STAR BRILLIANT 8-9 A. Ahmed 1
Mr. L. V. Malkani's SHY LADY 9-2 Evans 2
Mr. Saleh Moosa's JASSIR 8-12 Kheemsingh 3
Mr. Rahiman's INTIDHAR AL SHABAB 8-0 B. McQuade 4

Not run: Lord Wavell, Hindustan, Najah Kamil.

Won by: 3 lengths, S-hd, 2 lengths

Time 2 minutes 24 seconds.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 99. Places Rs. 27, Rs. 14 and Rs. 22.

THE SHAHPUR PLATE Division I—Distance 7 furlongs.

H. H. Maharaja of Kashmir's TITBIT 8-10 Jones 1
Dowager Maharani Laxmibai Chhatrapati of Kolhapur's IRISH RIGHT 8-11 Khade 2
Maharaj Kumars Udaysinhrao and Khanderao of Baroda's BLUE PEARL 8-0 Sibbritt 3
Mr. Chandulal J. Shah's CULTURED PEARL 8-3 Kheem Singh 4

Not run: Silverlining, Niraly, Pure Emerald.

Tote paid: Win Rs. 36. Places Rs. 15, Rs. 37 and Rs. 22.

WHY GIVE UNDUE PROMINENCE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Marathi Literary Conference Condemns Policy Of A. I. R.

BOMBAY, Saturday.

The Bombay and Suburban Marathi Literary Conference which had a prolonged sitting at the Wilson High School premises this evening, discussed half a dozen resolutions concerning the growth of Marathi literature. The policy of the All-India Radio in giving undue prominence to the English language to the detriment of Marathi and other Indian languages came in for scathing criticism. Another important resolution on the agenda criticised Government for curtailing civil supplies of paper thereby imposing a severe handicap on authors and inconveniencing students.

The proceedings commenced with a condolence resolution touching the death of several litterateurs including Mr. R. B Kirtikar, Mr. D. V. Apte and Mr. D. P. Bhagwat. The next resolution commended the efforts of Mr. S. G. Date in compiling the "Marathi Granth Soochi."

The policy of the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar "in giving lesser importance to Marathi" met with the strong disapproval of the conference. A separate resolution was tabled for condemning the Sind Government's ban on the fourteenth chapter of "Satyartha Prakash."

The following is the text of the resolution criticising the All-India Radio:— "The conference condemns the policy of the All-India Radio in giving undue prominence to the English language to the detriment of the Indian languages. The conference extends full support to the Hindi writers who have boycotted the Radio as a protest against its policy. The Radio is hereby urged to draw up its programmes in the

(Continued on page 11)

National Badminton

BOMBAY AND BENGAL ELIMINATED BY DELHI AND PUNJAB

In the Inter-Provincial Badminton Championship Tournament, Bombay and Bengal were eliminated by Delhi and the Punjab respectively at the Bombay Gymkhana on Saturday evening. While the Bengal representatives, Madgavkar and Bose went down to their formidable rivals Prakash Nath and Lewis fighting to the last, Bombay had an excellent chance entering the final round had not Burjor Shroff thrown away his match after securing a complete grip over it.

As it turned out the Bompay player lost the first game without giving any serious opposition to his opponent. But in the second game he made a fine recovery, so much so that he completely non-plussed Jaini time and again by his terrific smashes and clever placements and actually rose to 13-9 in the deciding game. A little steadiness on his part would have carried him to victory comfortably. But he became rash and threw away many an ace in a hurry. Even when he was at match-point, he made faulty services! It was no wonder therefore that Jaini who had previously succumbed to Kishore Lotwalla of this city in the All-India Championships, brought off a magnificent victory and saw his province enter the final round.

Henry Ferreira, on the other hand, was outclassed and outplayed by Charanjit in every department of the game.

DEODHAR SISTERS IN FINAL

As was expected, the Deodhar sisters from Poona, Tara and Sunder, made short work of the Vimadalal sisters, Maka and Aloo, in the penultimate round of the women's doubles in the All-India Championships Tournament.

RANGNEKAR'S RASHNESS

The mixed doubles quarter final engagement between Mrs. Malhotra and Mugwe and Maka Vimadalal and Rangnekar ended in an exciting finish in favour of the former pair. The losers had the final game well in their grip. But Khandu became needlessly rash—and then nervous—towards the end and failed to collar the winning point though offered several chances. All the same it was a creditable victory for Mugwe and Mrs. Malhotra.

The contest between Suman Deodhar and Sunil Bose and Mumtaz Chinoy and Kishore Lotwalla saw Bose dominating the whole show and winning the match comfortably. Then Tara Deodhar, accompanied by Devinder Mohan disposed of Mrs. Herenjal and Chiranjit with ease.

The following are the results:—

INTER-PROVINCIAL TOURNEY

Prakash Nath (Punjab) bt. V. A. Madgavkar (Bengal) 18-14, 15-8; G. Lewis (Punjab) bt. S. Bose (Bengal) 15-12, 15-12.

D. Charanjit (Delhi) bt. H. Ferreira (Bombay) 15-9, 15-10; S. L. Jaini (Delhi) bt. B D. Shroff (Bombay) 15-11, 8-15, 17-15.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES SEMI-FINAL

Miss T. Deodhar and Miss Sunder Deodhar bt. Miss M. R. Vimadalal and Miss A. R. Vimadalal 15-9, 15-12.

MIXED DOUBLES QUARTER FINALS

Mrs. Malhotra and D. G. Mugwe bt. Miss M. R. Vimadalal and K. M. Rangnekar 15-7, 9-15, 18-17; Miss Suman Deodhar and S. Bose bt. Miss M. R. Chinoy and K. R. Lotwalla 15-4, 15-3; Miss T. Deodhar and Devinder Mohan bt. Mrs. Herenjal and Charanjit 15-4, 15-6.

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BRITAIN MUST TAKE INITIATIVE

"Times" Endorses Wavell's Speech

LONDON, Dec. 15.

Although the "London Times" in an editorial today endorses most of the points made by Lord Wavell in his Calcutta speech, the paper disagrees with the Viceroy's statement that after the failure of the 1935 Act and the Cripps Mission" His Majesty's Government said they could do no more and that India herself must make a constructive suggestion."

The "Times" comments, "It may be doubted whether his all important plea for the restoration of Indian belief in British good faith will be advanced by this argument.

Britain's policy has been laid down once and for all; its fulfilment cannot be left to depend upon unaided Indian initiative. Such initiative must be actively fostered not merely on its own merits, but for the opportunity which it will afford for prompt and appropriate action by Britain herself."

Penicillin Production Capability Of China

LONDON, Dec. 16: All the penicillin required for the Allied armies in the war against Japan can be produced in China, declared Dr. Joseph Needham, Director of the British Council of the Cultural Scientific Office in China who has arrived here for consultations. Several laboratories are working on the production of penicillin, he reported. Dr. Needham believed that in 25 or 50 years time, China would be a leading scientific nation, if its scientific pursuits received the Government's financial support.—Reuter.

Mrs. Pandit Looks To Closer Link Between U.S. & India After War

NEW YORK, Dec. 12:—Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, told the press that she believes that there will be real friendship between the United States and India after the war.

Mrs. Pandit, said: "There are many American soldiers in India and they have an opportunity to study our problems. We hope that after the war they will help us by giving us a place among the free nations of the world."

Mrs. Pandit arrived in the United States Dec. 8 to visit her two daughters who are students at Wellesley College. Discussing her daughters she said: "I sent all my children to American schools because I believe in American education. One of my daughters is studying journalism and when she returns to India she will work for a rapprochement between the two countries."—U S O.W.I.

"Daily Worker" Not Supplied To Troops

LONDON, (By Mail): The War Office has refused to include the "Daily Worker" in the official scheme for distributing newspapers to troops in France, Belgium and Holland. Arrangements for distribution of national newspapers were made before the D-day, but the "Daily Worker" was not told. However the paper applied immediately with no result.—India Press Service.

Danger Of Unbalanced Industrialisation

NEED FOR MEASURES FOR DISPERSAL OF INDUSTRY INTO COUNTRYSIDE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 15.

In a memorandum on the location of industry in India, prepared in order to serve as a basis of discussion by the Policy Committee on post-war planning, the office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India says:—

"The economy of this country, is already heavily unbalanced as a result of its excessive dependence on agriculture and the disadvantages arising from this fact are further aggravated by this uneven distribution of industry. If India were highly industrialised, this excessive concentration of industry would not have perhaps been such a serious matter. But when the total number of factory workers is less than one per cent of the total population, the concentration of 52 per cent of this small number in two provinces reduces the share of other provinces to an even more insignificant figure as compared with their population. In recent years, however, the memorandum states, as a result of various factors, there has been a gradual dispersal of industries to new centres. The tendency towards dispersal is most marked in the case of the cotton textile mill industry.

According to the memorandum, there has been a pronounced tendency for new enterprises to be attracted to Indian States, owing partly to various inducements offered by the States' Governments and partly to the relatively low level of rents and wages there. The possibility of escaping the incidence of high taxation in British India is an additional inducement. If the increase in factory employment can be taken as an index of industrial expansion, nearly 33 per cent of the total expansion between 1921 and 1939 took place in the states, particularly Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Kashmir and, Central India States. The rate of expansion in the States was also higher than in British India.

The memorandum enunciates a two-fold objective of national policy; a planned development of industrial towns and a more even distribution of industry as between regions, in order to secure a balanced development of the country as a whole.

The memorandum pleads for a proper co-ordination between house-building and road-building on the one hand and industrial development on the other.

While it deprecates the further growth of some of the existing towns, it makes out a plan for increased organisation of the population through a planned dispersal of industrial activity, on the ground that it will be impracticable to provide many of the modern services and amenities on an efficient scale except in town of an optimum size. "As an instrument of urbanisation, therefore, dispersal of industry can be the starting point of a great deal of social and material improvement in the country."—A. P.

NEW ZEALAND'S GESTURE TO CHINA

Repeals Poll Tax Imposed Years Ago To Check Chinese Immigration

WELLINGTON, Dec. 15.

A Poll Tax imposed many years ago to check Chinese immigration in New Zealand has been repealed by Parliament

Explaining, Prime Minister Nash said "Government is pleased to remove a blot on our legislation".

Restrictive legislation against the Chinese has also been repealed in respect of limitation of the number carried in relation to a ship's tonnage.

In future Chinese desiring to enter New Zealand will come under a permit on the same conditions as other aliens.

Mr. Wang Feng, the Chinese Consul-General in a comment said that the road is now paved for more positive measures for the improvement of friendly relations between China and New Zealand. The Chinese would derive much consolation from New Zealand's fine gesture

"Reaffirm Atlantic Charter And Save Br. Prestige In U. S."

The "Manchester Guardian" suggests: "Britain and America at least should confer again quickly even if a meeting with Stalin is still to be delayed. A new Roosevelt-Churchill declaration reaffirming—they can still reaffirm—the Atlantic Charter is badly needed for the sake not only of the British and American peoples whose faith has been shaken but of the European peoples who are watching the Greek struggle with dismay."

The "Manchester Guardian" adds: "It is an unpleasant thought that a few short weeks should have seen such deterioration in the British standing in the United States. It is a reminder to Government of the dangers of independent action even when this action was decided by American consent."

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CHURCHILL TO ADDRESS WORLD TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

LONDON, Dec. 8.—When the World Trade Union Conference meets in London in February it will be addressed by Mr. Churchill, writes Ian Mackay in the "News Chronicle." This will be the first time that a British Prime Minister has attended an International Labour Conference.

The Preparatory Committee for the conference finished its work yesterday and the Union leaders of Britain, Russia and the United States announced jointly that complete accord had been reached on the subjects to be discussed.

There will be 150 delegates. About 50,000,000 organised workers will be represented. The chief subject will be the formation of a new World Trade Union Federation, which will be in effect the new International and will take the place of the old Second International and the Third, better known as the Comintern.

The Conference will also discuss post-war reconstruction and the attitude the Trade Union Movement should take to the peace settlement, Allied occupation of enemy countries, reparations, treatment of Germany, U.N.R.R.A. and the position of Trade Unions at the Peace Conference.

Spain and Argentina have not been invited but exiled Spanish Unions will be there.

Greece Allotted To British Sphere Of Influence?

LONDON, DEC. 15.

GEORGE HALL, UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPLYING TO A QUESTION IN THE COMMONS TODAY SAID THE DECISION TO SEND BRITISH TROOPS TO GREECE WAS REACHED AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WERE ALSO INFORMED OF THE DECISION BEFORE ANY BRITISH TROOPS WERE DISPATCHED. BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET GOVERNMENTS AGREED THAT GREECE FELL PRIMARILY IN THE BRITISH MILITARY SPHERE.—REUTER.

ALLIES CAPTURE BHAMO

Escape Bid Of 200 Japs Foiled

KANDY, Dec. 16: Troops of the 38th Chinese Division captured Bhamo yesterday afternoon, says today's S E A C. 'communique.'

Many Japanese were killed and stores were taken.

15th Indian Corps Front: In Arakan our forward movement continues against slight opposition, following the occupation of Buthidaung our troops have entered a village on the coastal strip, 16 miles south of Maungdaw.

14th Army: On the Chindwin front there is no major change.

A sizeable force of enemy remnants made a desperate bid to escape from Bhamo last night but the attempt was frustrated, writes N. Rajamani, 'A. P. I.' war correspondent at Bhamo.

Chinese troops under cover of air artillery bombardment swept into the core of enemy-held sectors.

Bhamo has been neutralised strategically for weeks now, ever since powerful Chinese columns raced down the road to Namkham, but, nevertheless, the removal of this festering sore would render Allied lines of communications and supplies easier. Two pre-war airstrips in the town could now be among the forward bases for fighters and bombers of the Tenth Air Force.

Last shots were being fired when the first party of war correspondents alighted at a nearby airfield at Bhamo in the Commanding General's plane—"Sultan's Magic Carpet." The river bank on the northern sector was strewn with dead Japanese and a number of them appeared to have committed suicide. The climax in the fighting was reached last night when over 200 Japanese hemmed in this sector decided to escape and made for rafts on the riverside. In the all-night fighting which ensued Chinese shot up most of them; those who escaped were wounded and washed away by the fast-flowing Irrawady. Jap equipment and twisted trucks litter the streets.

WHY FALL WAS DELAYED

Two factors emerge as important when explanations are sought as to why it took a month to break up enemy resistance in the town. Firstly, the besieging garrison was explicitly told not to incur any more than unavoidable minimum casualties; secondly, the enemy was determined to fight a delaying action as long as he could so as to deny us the Burma Road and at the same time regroup his forces further south. Added to these were natural obstacles in the town—numerous causeways and marsh patches which rendered the assaulters' task difficult.—A. P.

Soviet Postpones Elections

LONDON, Dec. 15: The Russian News Agency reports in connection with the war situation that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. has decreed that elections to the Supreme Soviet be postponed until December, 1945, and that the powers of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. be prolonged for this period.

Why Give Undue Prominence To English Language?

(Continued from Page 10.)

Indian languages in consultation with committees of experts in whom the public have full confidence."

The other important resolution adopted by the conference urged:—"The conference demands that lectures, meetings and the like admission to which are by tickets should be exempt from tax because they constitute a medium of public education."

The conference expressed the view in another resolution:— "In view of the importance of books for the political, social and educational advancement of the nation, the conference calls upon Government to amend the Paper Control Order with a view to make more paper available for civil population.'

The conference adjourned till Sunday. Mr. Laxman Shastri Joshi presided over the Saturday's session.

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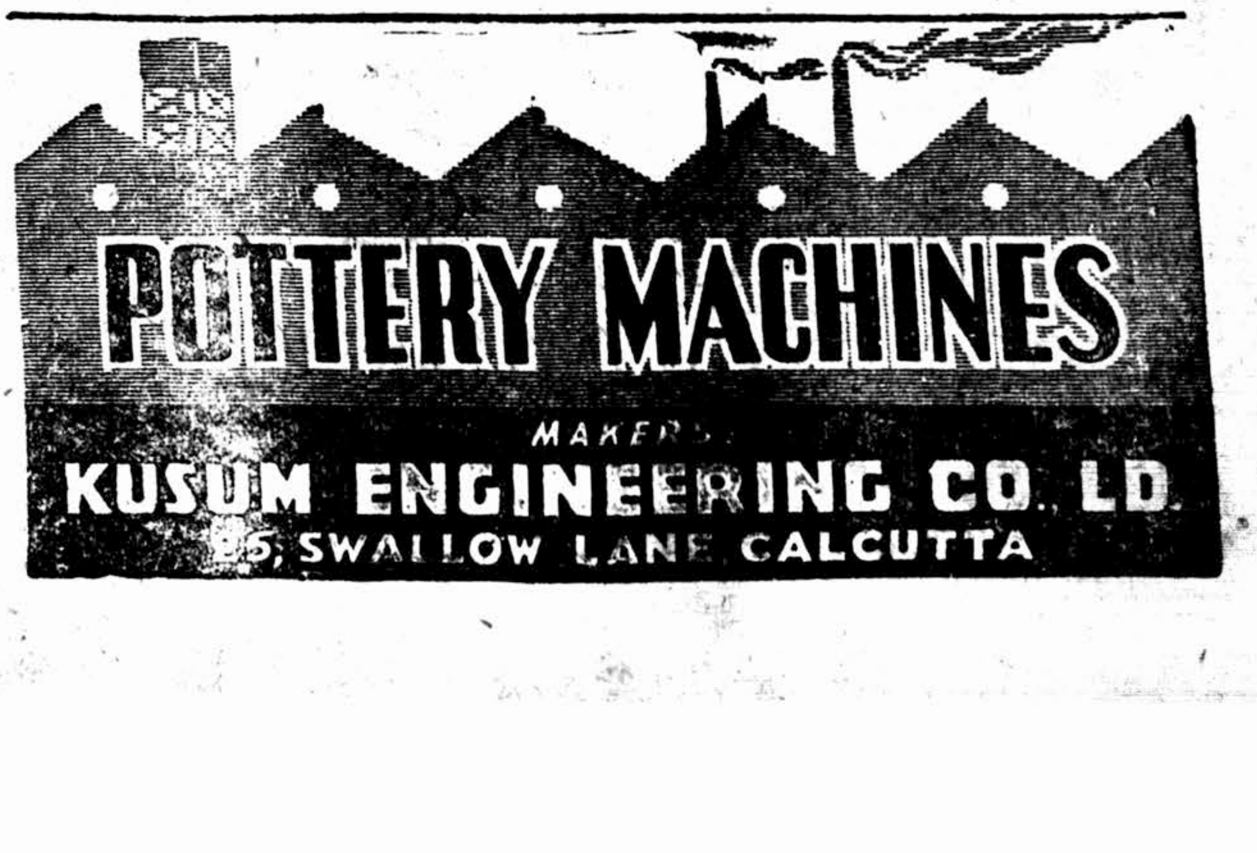

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Supply Of Potatoes

As the supply position of potatoes has again improved, the Government has decided to reintroduce the system of graded issues of potatoes at Government Grain Shops in Bombay City and the Bombay Suburban District, according to the foodgrains ration units held by a family. Accordingly from Monday, (December 18), the sale of potatoes for household consumption will be as follows:—

Two foodgrains units—1 lb. per week; above two and upto six units—2 lb.; above six and upto 10 units—3 lb.; above 10 and upto 14 units—4 lb.; above 14 units—5 lb.

To obtain potatoes from the Government Grain Shops under the above arrangement, the ration card of the head of the household together with the ration cards of other members of the household must be produced.

The formation of an All-India Association of Elementary and Primary School Teachers to work for the redress of the grievances of teachers is suggested in a letter from the President of the Board of Elementary School Teachers' Union, Ernad (Madras) to the President of the Municipal Primary School Teachers' Association, Surat.

Technical Education For Muslim Youths

The Moharrum series of lectures conducted under the auspices of the "Rahbar" was inaugurated by Begum Rehman at the Marathi Municipal School, Dongri, on Saturday evening.

Begum Rehman in the course of her remarks explained to the ladies present the significance of Moharrum and expressed her satisfaction at the good work done by "Rahbar" by way of mental enlightenment through the series.

Mr. S. S. Desnavi, speaking on technical education stressed the need of parents giving proper guidance to their sons in selecting their career. It was necessary, he said, that selection should be according to the natural tendency of the student concerned. He further advised Muslim students to concentrate on technical education. The world was changing fast and industrial expansion of the country was handicapped for want of technicians. There was the possibility of a heavy demand for trained technicians in the post-war period. It was therefore desirable that Muslim youths should avoid a purely academic career and divert their energy to practical channels.

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CITY MARKETS

Bombay Cotton

BOMBAY, Dec. 16.

The market was officially open today but no business was done as a mark of respect to death of a member. Private business was being done. March opened at Rs 433 and later was quoted at Rs. 431/8 under scattered selling.

At about 1-45 p m regular business was commenced and March was quoted at Rs. 431. There was moderate buying and price improved to Rs. 434. The market closed at 3 p.m. as under:

I C C March	433	8	0
I C C May	442	8	0

COTTON PARITY

Indian Cotton March Contract is 526 cent points below New York at Exchange rate 331.

Gold & Silver

The local bullion market was again steady today with improved buying. Forward Silver opened at Rs. 126 and declined to Rs. 125/12 under scattered selling but there was renewed buying and quotation firmed up to Rs. 126/8. Ready Silver was quoted at Rs. 126/12. Forward Gold also after declining to Rs. 66/8 improved to Rs. 66/4 while Spot Gold was placed at Rs. 67.

The market ruled very steady and closing quotations were as under. Ready Silver Rs. 127/8. Forward Rs. 127. Ready Gold Rs. 67/2. Forward Rs. 67.

INDIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

BOMBAY, Dec. 16.

Tata Ordinary 405 Tata Deferred 2260 Indian Iron 40/4 Steel Corpn. of Bengal 32/14 Bombay Dyeing 1852/8 Central India 415 Century 840 Gokak 311/4 Kohinoor 620 Simplex 277 Andhra Valley 1797/8 Tata Hydro 208/8 Tata Power 1887/8 Associated Cement 243/8 Belapur 236/4 Bombay Burma (Old) 492/8

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET STEADY

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.

Reuter's cable: New York Dec. 15: The market was narrow throughout the morning on trade buying coupled with the larger than expected November consumption figures and Mr. Churchill's reiterated prophecies of a long war. Meanwhile fears of possible changes in Government policies were a restrictive feature. December expired at 21.79. Prices ruled steady with dribbling price-fixing and routing trade demands in excess of hedges. To-day's final December notices totalled 28. The market closed very steady. Market opened at 21.88 and after declining to 21.85 advanced to 21.94. The market closed at a net rise of 3 to 9 points. Spot cotton price improved 13 points at 22.33 c per lb.

NEW YORK COTTON

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.

January	21.80+03
March	21.93+09
May	21.83+04
July	21.45+04
October	20.46+05
November	20.34+06
March Highest (3 p m)	21.94+10
March Lowest (10-20 a m)	21.85+01
Middling Spot	22.33+13

LONDON BULLION

LONDON, Dec. 16.

Spot 23-1/2 Forward 23-1/2 Gold bars fine per oz. £8/8/0

LONDON EXCHANGES

LONDON, Dec. 16.

T. T. London on:—

New York sellers 4.02-1/2 buyers 4.03-1/2 Madrid official 44.00 Montreal sellers 4.43 buyers 4.47 Zurich sellers 17.3 buyers 17.4 Stockholm sellers 16.85 buyers 16.95

LONDON WHEAT

LONDON, Dec. 16.

Wheat Rozario Santa Fe (new crop) 41 December quoted

Wheat Australian (bulk) 45 DecJan. quoted

Wheat Australian (bags) 48 Dec/Jany quoted

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.

LONDON, Dec. 16.

Rupee Paper 3-1/2 p c	72-3/4
Consols 2-1/2 p c	81-9/16
Conversion loan 3-1/2 p c 1961	106
War loan 3-1/2 p c	103-15/16
Funding loan 4 p c 1960/90	113-5/8
Victory bonds 4 p c	113-3/4
Chartered Bank of I. A. & China	10-13/16
Hongkong & Changhai Bank (London Reg.)	84
National Bank of India	42-1/2

MONEY MARKET

BOMBAY, Dec. 16

LONDON Banks buying 90 Days/at 1/6 1/4 1 & 2 months.

LONDON Banks buying 90 Days/at 1/6 9/32 3 to 6 months.

B. C. RATES. T T 1/5 15/16 D D 1/5 15/16

Banks sell T T 1/5 31/32 D D 1/5 31/31

Banks buy T T 1/6 1/32 D D 1/6 1/8

LDN/NEW YORK T T Rs. 332 3/4 D D Rs. 332 3/4

Banks buy T T Rs. 329 1/2 D D Rs. 327

LDN/MONTREAL Dol 4.43/47

Banks sell T T Rs. 302 1/2 D D Rs. 302 1/2

Banks buy T T Rs. 297 3/4 D D Rs. 295 1/4

Tone of Sterling Exchange:—Dull.

Reserve Bank Rate 3 p c. Bank of England Rate 2 p c.

Money:—Call, one and two months 1/4 p c. 3 to 5 months 1/2 p c. 6 to 11 months 3/4 p c 12 months 1 1/4 p c.

Tone:—Very Easy.

The Standing Food Advisory Committee at its meeting held to-day in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Sir J. P. Srivastava approved 'NEM CON' the decision of the Central Government in the matter of foodgrain supplies to Calcutta during 1945.

Dangers Of A Fascist Spain

Churchill's Support Of Franco Comes As A Rude Shock To Millions Who Are Struggling For The Downfall Of Nazism And Fascism

(By Mrs. P. N. DRIVER)

In spite of wide differences of opinion I have no doubt whatsoever that for millions of people in many parts of the world this a genuine People's War. At least millions of men throughout the world are dying in that faith. They feel that it is their duty to die fighting against Fascism so that at least for their children and grandchildren this world would be a happier place to live in compared to what it was and has been for them. We have believed all these years that this war is a war against Fascism everywhere and not only against the German Nazis. If this belief were proved to be wrong, then this war would cease to be a real People's War and would become merely an Imperialist war, which I believe it is not.

For this vitally important reason the recent speech of Mr. Churchill regarding Spain has come as a great shock and surprise for many millions of people. The most charitable interpretation one can put on that speech is that it was made because Mr. Churchill does not want to be embarrassed by Spain in the operations now undertaken against Hitler. But if this is not the case then the speech is certainly a great surprise for millions. Mr. Churchill has stood out during all these years as a symbol of the courage of the common man in the fight against Fascism. His historical mission has been to undo the very great wrong done by Mr. Chamberlain who really strengthened the hands of Hitler. Now, after having achieved so much, the avowal of his friendship with Franco has naturally shocked millions of men.

BRITAIN'S TWO MISTAKES

The world cannot forget that the civil war in Spain is an episode historically and logically connected with the present war. Similarly the present war is the outcome of two great mistakes of England in the two years preceding 1939—the tragic betrayal of Czechoslovakia and the euqally tragic pro-Fascist neutrality called "Non-intervention" in Spain. The folly of Chamberlain destroyed one of the most powerful bastions of democracy in Central Europe, immobilised more than one million of the best fighters against Nazism by a stroke of the pen, gave away indirectly all the intricate secrets of the Maginot Line to Hitler, and made a present to the Nazis of the most powerful of Europe's armament factories.

Likewise, the policy of non-intervention in Spain brought the war nearer to England and to the world for it ultimately led to the collapse of France as an ally in any war against Germany, and above all destroyed a new democratic power which had been a strong bulwark against Fascism in Europe. The fact is Chamberlain suspected and feared Russia, hence he logically supported Franco. If to-day Chamberlain's suspicions have proved false, if his suspected enemy has become the friend who has saved both England and the world from German Fascist domination, it is not only decent but necessary that the friendship towards Franco should cease. Franco is the natural ally of Fascism and a sworn enemy of Russia. If this war is against Fascism and represents a sincere alliance with Russia for the building up of a new world, Franco cannot continue to be a friend of Churchill.

Millions of men in the fighting forces and outside them are asking the question, is this a war against Fascism in Germany or against Fascism in general? There is a great difference between the two. A war against the Nazis only is not the same as a war against Fascism. The former gives this war a nationalist pro-imperialist complexion, whereas it is the latter alone that makes it a logical war of the people against the Fascist Beast. Franco has shown that he is an enemy of the people's cause by imprisoning thousands of his own anti-fascist countrymen who fought against him in the civil war. Let him release all the brave soldiers of the civil war from their permanent imprisonment without trial, if he wants the world to believe that the civil war was only a domestic struggle and not a struggle against Fascism.

FRANCO'S "NEUTRALITY"

No doubt England has every reason to be grateful to Spain for her neutrality in the present war. We are not against gratitude in politics. But there are two flies in this diplomatic ointment and they require clarification. Firstly, is it not true that Franco's neutrality was forced on him by his internal difficulties? Is it not true that he would have immediately declared war against England if he had been strong enough to do so? He is a dictator who won the war against democratic liberties a little too soon and that too neither decisively nor without foreign aid. We all thank God that he was not strong enough to imitate Mussolini and declare war. But everyone knows today that if he had done this he would have suffered a worse disaster than the castor-oil exponent. If Franco's neutrality was forced on him, why should Mr. Churchill allow sentiments of gratitude to interfere with the logical course of this year? I cannot for a moment believe that it was the influence and personal assurances of Sir Samuel Hoare that kept Franco out of the war.

Besides all this, is it not equally likely that Franco's neutrality is part of a bigger policy to transplant Fascism from Germany, where national ambitions brought it in conflict with Great Britain, to a more congenial soil where unhampered by strong or ambitious nationalism, it may develop with the blessings of all reactionaries into a strong bulwark against the rising star of the people? If Franco is preserved, Hitler can be preserved too for greater mischief in the future. If the Kaiser in the last war sought refuge in Holland and saved himself from the horrors of a defeated Germany, is it really impossible for Hitler to seek refuge in Spain and reorganise Fascism from there? What will Mr. Churchill do in such a case?

CHURCHILL'S STRANGE DICTUM

Mr. Churchill has drawn a distinction between "nations who go to war with you and nations who leave you alone." This is a dangerous distinction to make in a total war like this. What if Stalin quotes Churchill when we ask Russia to join in the war against Japan? If this distinction was proper, how can we ask Russia to co-operate with us in the attack on Japan? Is it taken for granted that Great Britain will not ask Russia to join in the war against Japan? And if this is not so, what would happen if Russia asked England to declare war against Franco? Would the commitments of Mr. Churchill in this speech be allowed then to break the united struggle of the nations?

This distinction drawn by Mr. Churchill is a new thing in this war. It is certainly far removed from the gallant fighting spirit of Great Britain in 1939 when she went to the rescue of Poland without being attacked herself. Is it forgotten that the Nazis had left England alone for a very long time, long enough in fact to enable them to conquer the rest of Europe and isolate her completely before her destruction? Many nations today are fighting Fascism though they had left alone by the Fascists. Can all this be forgotten? Can Mr. Churchill forget that what Hitler did yesterday Franco may do tomorrow?

I know most people in this country do not like Mr. Churchill's views on Imperialism. But we do honour his brilliance, his intellect, and his courage which made him face the fiery ordeal of fighting Germany all alone till such time as the Red Star of the Soviet rose on the horizon of humanity and threw light where before there was only darkness. Will Mr. Churchill, one of the heroes of this war so far, prove only the Chamberlain of tomorrow? Every one who believes in this war against Fascism must ask this question, because there is the fear in our heart that if this war is not general, whether that Fascism be fought as a war against Fascism in German or Italian, Spanish or Japanese, then this war will have to be fought again. Let us hope Mr. Churchill will have the vision to see that this war cannot end merely with the defeat of Germany. It can only end when suffering humanity comes into its own, as come it must to be merely the hewers of wood if the majority of mankind are not and the drawers of water for a few who reign and boss whilst millions toil and die. It is this vision that has united the world today. May Churchill have this vision too is the prayer of all humanity. Down with Fascism!

Move To Repeal Pegging Act?

LONDON, Dec. 8.—The Natal Indian controversy has been carried a step further by the exchange of correspondence between the Prime Minister General Smuts and the Natal Indian Congress, cables "The Times" Durban correspondent.

General Smuts' statement emphasises the value of the Natal Indian Judicial Commission and expresses the desire that this Commission should continue its work. To facilitate representations from Indians to the Government and the provincial authorities, it has been suggested that a permanent committee should be established by the Indian Congress.

General Smuts states that the Union Government considers that the so-called Pretoria Agreement "is quite dead." He adds, however, that the Governor-General's assent to the Residential Property Ordinance will be reserved for the time being.

This reservation hinges on the fact that it cannot be assented to until the Pegging Act is repealed and it is likely that a move to effect this will be made during the next session of the Parliament.

The Natal Indian Congress has replied that the only answer to the Asiatic question in the Union lies in the restoration of franchise to the Indian community on a common roll.

MUSSO'S ATTEMPT TO SET UP FASCISM IN FRANCE

Rome Trial May Reveal Plot

LONDON, Dec. 10.—Documents handed into the High Court in Rome on December 7 foreshadow a trial which will lay bare how Fascists were involved in the assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia and M. Barthou, French Foreign Minister at Marseilles in 1934, cables the "Daily Telegraph" Rome correspondent.

It will also throw light, he adds, on the murder of anti-Fascist refugees in France, blowing up of ships and other crimes committed by an international organisation headed by the late Count Ciano.

It is alleged that Mussolini plotted a coup d'etat to set up Fascism in France. Petain is alleged to have been implicated in this plot, with other high officers of the French army who have since been leading collaborators with the Germans.

Of 15 men indicted, some will be tried in their absence.

ONLY THE BRAVE
deserves the fair

Life is a struggle. That is what we are told. That is what we are led to believe by our own experience. But how to face this struggle, how to win and conquer? That is the problem before us. The solution, fortunately, is neither difficult nor obscure. One has only to look at history and interpret it carefully. Then it becomes obvious to one that courage—genuine and sincere courage—has always been the clue to success. History abounds in such instances. We mention one because that instance unfortunately remains unknown to many though it happens to be a national pride for all of us. During the last decade of the 19th century India fared miserably in the struggle of life. A group of nationalist minded people became conscious of it and tried to effect national upliftment. Mr. Bagchi, one of them, had the foresight to realise that only through industry can prosperity come to the country. But that was not enough. Courage was needed—the courage to an industrial enterprise under so adverse circumstances. That accounts for the success that M/s. P. M. Bagchi & Co. enjoys today. By producing effective medicines, quality ink and beautiful perfumeries it has to a great extent already removed and is still removing, a long felt national want of India.

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FOUR ACCUSED ACQUITTED

Judgment In Asthi Murder Case

WARDHA, Dec. 16.

Mr. H. C. Sen, Sessions Judge, Wardha, delivered judgment in the Asthi Murder Case to-day. Out of the ten accused four were acquitted. Three accused were sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment under Section 147 and to three years' rigorous imprisonment under Rule 65 of the Defence of India Rules. Both the sentences are to be undergone concurrently. A sentence of transportation for 20 years was awarded to three accused under Section 302/149 and on other different counts.

It will be recalled that it was an offshoot the Asthi Murder Case arising out of the August Disturbance in which a Sub-Inspector of Police and four constables were killed. The above accused were absconding and surrendered.—United Press.

B. E. S. T. WORKERS' DEMANDS

Adjudicator's Award On Bonus And Dearness Allowance

The awards of Mr. E. M. Nanavatty adjudicator in the disputes between the B.E.S.T. & Company on the one hand and (1) the "non-scheduled" employees of the Traffic Department, (2) the "non-scheduled" employees of the Kingsway workshop, (3) its "scheduled" employees, (4) and its non-scheduled employees of the Kingsway workshop on the other hand have been published.

The adjudicator rejects the demand for revision in the scales of pay in force since 1934 and for revision in the rates of wages.

The demand for a dearness allowance on the same scale as that adopted by the Millowners' Association of Bombay is conceded.

The demand for the treatment of old-war allowance of 1918 as part of wages not only in the calculation of Bonus but also for the purpose of Provident Fund and Gratuities is conceded.

Rubber Shortage May Affect U. S. War Operations

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16: Rubber shortage may soon hamper American war operations, it is disclosed in a statement by the U. S. A. A. F. Chief, General H. H. Arnold, which says: "We are now consuming aeroplane and truck tyres at a rate which cannot be met even with all plants producing to the limit of their capacity. American rubber stock-pile is dipping below the minimum supply requirements of 100,000 tons for 1945."

The statement refers to the inadequacy of natural rubber supply from Ceylon, Liberia and Amazon and says that hard operating conditions in India and China are the cause of especially severe wear on aircraft tyres.—Reuter.

MEHAR SINGH'S NEW JOB

Wing Commander Mehar Singh, D.S.O., whose appointment to that rank was announced a few days ago, has been appointed Deputy President of No. 7 G. H. Q. Officers' Selection Board, Dehra Dun.

Wing Commander Mehar Singh, who is 29, is one of I. A. F.'s most experienced operational pilots and leaders.

W.A.C. (1) TO HAVE STAFF COLLEGE

NEW DELHI, Dec. 16.

The W.A.C. (1) is to have its own Staff College. It will be opened next January at Quetta and will train W.A.C. (1) officers upto the standard required to fill third grade staff appointments and help officers holding junior appointments to qualify for upgrading.—A. P.

Viceroy Opens Hallet Hospital

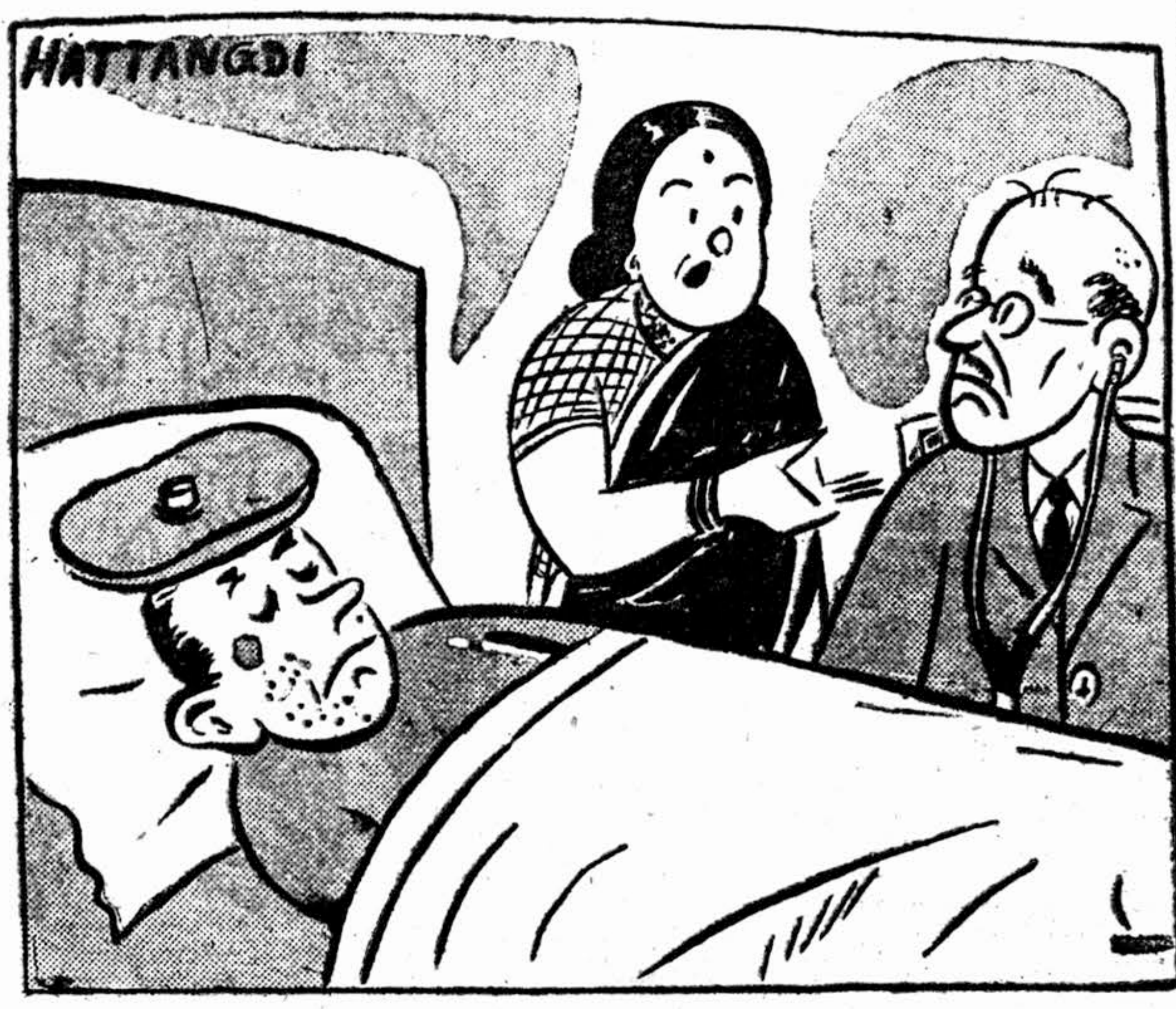
CAWNPORE, Dec. 16: His Excellency the Viceroy declaring open the Hallet Hospital here this afternoon paid a tribute to the fine work of Sir Maurice Hallett, the Governor of the United Provinces and said that his services should be recognised by all.—A. P.

90 Lakh Electric Bulbs To Be Available In 1945

It is understood that the scarcity of electric bulbs will shortly be moved. uDring the current year, apart from public utilities and industries, only ten lakh bulbs were available for ordinary consumers. In 1945 this supply will be nine times more.

To utilise the best scientific talent in the country in the manufacture of processed food, the Food Department, it is understood, is shortly establishing a panel of scientists under the chairmanship of Sir S. S. Bhatnagar.

Legacy of the Railway Strike!!



"I'm afraid, Doctor, he is awfully delirious. All of a sudden he gets up and says 'it's coming, it's coming' perhaps he mean the local train!"

"HANDICAPPED BY ABSENCE OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT"

Dalal On Government Proposal To Appoint Permanent Tariff Board

CALCUTTA, Dec. 16.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Planning and Development Member of the Government of India, at his first Press conference in Calcutta to-day, said that "if nothing is done now to meet the requirements of the transitional period from War to Peace, then we shall have something in the nature of a catastrophe or sheer national disaster."

Sir Ardeshir admitted that they were handicapped by the absence of a National Government in that such a Government could carry the people with them and rouse them to make greater sacrifices for the good of the country.

"But the march of events," Sir Ardeshir said "cannot be arrested. The war is coming to an end shortly and hundreds of thousands of people will be thrown out of employment resulting in the reduction of the purchasing power of the people. We have, therefore, to do something to meet the situation."

A press correspondent asked Sir Ardeshir to explain the industrial and tariff policies of the Government of India and the measures they intended to take to deal with unfair foreign competition in India.

Answering the points seriatum, Sir Ardeshir said that the Government intended to liberalise the tariff policy and proposed to appoint a permanent Tariff Board to deal with the various questions.

PLEA FOR PROTECTION.

International negotiations on the subject, he said, had not yet concluded, but they had always maintained the position that backward countries like India and China which required industrialisation might come into conflict with international policies and scope should therefore be left to them to encourage their own indigenous industries by protection. "Nobody", Sir Ardeshir asserted, "is going to interfere with the policy of protection in a reasonable manner."

The Government of India, the Development Member, said has not yet arrived at any definite conclusions as to which industries should be industrialised or nationalised. But the general principle was that munitions and armaments factories should be owned and managed by the Government.

Sir Ardeshir visualised a greater amount of control by Government of industries than had existed before but he emphasised that the Government had no intention whatsoever to impede or hamper private industries. Private industries played a great part in the national life of the country but they must be for the good of the public.

The Development Member said that the question of equitable distribution of profit by industries would certainly be considered by Government, because there was no meaning in increasing the wealth of the country without its proper distribution.

Dealing with the question of foreign competition Sir Ardeshir said that this involved an important constitutional issue. There were safeguards in the Constitution Act of the country and they could not prevent British capitalists establishing their industries in India.

"It is an issue which is under our earnest consideration and I am sure we can arrive at some kind of arrangement," he said.—A. P.

PHARMACY COLLEGE FOR BOMBAY

Mayor And Dadachanji Appeal For Rs. 5,00,000

A fervent appeal to the citizens of Bombay for a sum of Rs. 5,00,000 for starting a college of pharmacy in Bombay was made by Dr. K. K. Dadachanji speaking on "Drug Famine In India" at the Blavatsky Lodge, Mr. N. T. Master, Mayor of Bombay, presiding.

Dr. Dadachanji explained that there was a man-made famine of drugs in India resulting in sufferings which could have been otherwise prevented. Besides, India was a vast dumping ground for adulterated and misbranded drugs worth about two crores of rupees imported from foreign countries. India's annual requirements were about Rs. 30 crores of drugs, and that of the Bombay Province about Rs. two crores. Whereas the British Isles with a population of five crores possessed sixty colleges of pharmacy, India with eight times that population possessed no college worth the name. The same could be said about pharmacists.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN DRUGS

In order to make India self-sufficient in drugs, it was absolutely necessary, said the speaker, to start colleges of pharmacy all over the country. He also suggested the establishment of new pharmaceutical factories staffed by pharmacists trained at Indian colleges. There was enough raw material in the country —mineral, plant as well as animal— and with the help of Indian-owned factories this could be directed into useful channels.

Concluding, Dr. Dadachanji appealed to the Mayor and the Congress Party in the Corporation to take up his scheme for the establishment of a college of pharmacy in Bombay.

Mr. Nagindas Master endorsed the appeal made by Dr. Dadachanji and promised to do his best in the matter.

Music Conference In Baroda

Her Highness Maharani Shanta Devi Gaekwar of Baroda declared open the first session of the Indian Music conference held in Baroda under the auspices of the Koranne Musical Symphony in the evening of 14th December. In her speech Her Highness welcomed the session in Baroda and expressed the hope that it would soon take All-India shape. Her Highness then reviewed the encouragement extended to Indian Music by the Government of Baroda and emphasised the fact that the art of Music primarily demands public patronage.

Mr. Rajhuns alias Balgandharva presided over the conference which will last four days.

Sir Homi Mody's Defence Of The Pentangular

(Continued from Page 8)

the chief target of attack is that it is the most important and leading communal competition in the country. If this can be stopped all others will die a natural death. At any rate, it will be much easier to "kill" them, the smaller fries after the "Premier Demon" has been done away with.

A STRAIGHT QUESTION

I am almost tired to death by the repeated assertions that communal sport increases communal harmony. I wish it were so. If I were convinced of it, I would be the first to support and even promote competitions on Communal basis. But facts tell their own tale. Communal disharmony in this city and the country at large is greater to-day than ever before. It is no use blinking our eyes to this hard fact. Does Sir Homi honestly believe that by staging communal tamashas like the Pentangular all over the country we shall be able to eradicate the evil of communalism from our midst? If he does so he must be living in a world of his own. It is only by preaching nationalism and inculcating the true spirit of sport that we shall be able to make the country truly nationalist. The day of independence will dawn on us only when we learn to look at things from the national point of view—and not from the communal angle.

ZONAL TOURNAMENT

May I know what Sir Homi has done in regard to the promotion of the zonal tournament? It will not do merely to blame the obtuseness of the Hindu Gymkhana. If they do not fall in line with you on your own terms, what have you to say to their suggestion? To a non-partisan like me, their proposal appears to be eminently reasonable. It means that the C.C.I. and all the Gymkhanas should agree to give up the entire profits from this tournament for the development of Indian Cricket as a whole. All of them are making plenty of money from the communal show. Then why not forego the profits from this competition for the benefit of the game itself? The C.C.I. is now practically out of the woods in regard to its financial commitments. By enrolling 200 more Life Members they will be able to pay off the Debenture holders. I have no doubt this will be easily done. Therefore the sooner the Zonal tournament is ushered in the better for all concerned.

VIJAY'S TIFF WITH ABU

It is said that there was a passage-at-arms between Abu Jasdenwalla and Vijay Merchant at the meeting over the preparation of the Cricket pitches. I understand from a thoroughly independent source—totally unconnected with the two gentlemen concerned—that Sir Homi Mody, who presided over the meeting was mainly responsible for the unpleasant situation. It seems that Merchant had suggested that the C.C.I. should have a permanent groundsman to look to the preparation and maintenance of the putches. If the President had allowed him to explain it further, the unsavoury spectacle might have been avoided. I understand Merchant's objection was to the importation of the Bombay Gymkhana groundsman for the duration of the Pentangular.

THE C.C.I. PITCHES

Then there was no question about the manner of condition of the preparation of the pitches. A good deal of dust has been raised in certain quarters of the press in regard to this controversy. The point at issue has been turned into a personal factor. I do not care what are the personal likes or dislikes of Vijay Merchant or any other iminent cricketer. We are concerned with what is good or bad for Indian Cricket. Many a prominent cricketer has condemned the condition in which the C.C.I. pitches are presented to them. The bowlers get no help from their unresponsive surface and the batsmen are therefore turned into mere robots.

INTEREST OF INDIAN CRICKET

This state of affairs must be ended promptly in the best interest of our players and the game. It is true this condition does not prevail in all parts of the country, nor even in this city. So it does not affect our cricket as a whole. At the same time it cannot be overlooked that the most important matches in the country are staged at the Stadium. Consequently its wickets must be of such a nature that they would be equally helpful to the batsmen and the bowlers. But our objective is greater—and that is International Cricket. Everything must be done to help the bowlers and batsmen alike, because one is complementary to the other in winning a match. Neither batsmen nor bowlers alone can win it. Therefore the sooner the necessary steps are taken the better for all

First Lady-Fourth Term

"Working Woman Of The White House"

On January 20 at a private ceremony minus the crowds and parades of former inaugurals, President Roosevelt will again take the oath of office as Chief Executive of the United States.

There is no oath of office that Mrs. Roosevelt could take, because the U.S. Constitution accords no status to the wife of the President and wives of previous presidents were largely content to remain in the background. This, in fact, was the tradition. Wives of the presidents acted as hostesses at White House functions and made social public appearances with their husbands. Beyond that their lives were fairly simple and quiet.

Not so, Eleanor Roosevelt. In her 12 years in the White House she has given a new meaning to the figurative title of "First Lady." Living through historic days, she has helped to make that history herself with her manifold interests, her contacts with the peoples of the world, and her response to the changing and challenging contemporary scene.

More than a year ago it was calculated that Mrs. Roosevelt had travelled 280,000 miles in seven years, written over a million words, delivered hundreds of lectures and radio talks and turned over 500,000 dollars (rupees 16,66,666) of her earnings to philanthropic organizations, besides answering the demands of her colossal mail and acting as unofficial observer, for the President of the United States and the world at large.

Tall And Graceful

If few men in public life have had the responsibilities placed upon the American President since 1932, fewer still have had as much assistance from their wives. Many thousands who have never seen the President in person are familiar with his tall and graceful wife, whose dark hair now is greying, whose blue eyes illumine an otherwise plain face. Mrs. Roosevelt's next birthday will be her 61st but she looks much younger, thanks, she herself says, to splendid health and abundant energy. To health and energy should be added a systematic mind. Mrs. Roosevelt's day is planned to the last five minutes. Half an hour before she was due to meet King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of Britain on their state visit to Washington in 1939, she was deep in a conference on security for farmers.

Eleanor Roosevelt was born in New York City in 1884, daughter of Elliot and Anna (Hall) Roosevelt. She is the sixth cousin of the President on the "Republican side" of the Roosevelt family. She has described her family background and appraised her own shortcomings with candor in her autobiography, "This is My Story". She pictures herself as the shy, unattractive, awkward daughter of a beautiful mother. She adored her father, who called her "Little Nell" and took her travelling with him. There were two younger brothers. Her mother died in 1892; her father two years later. After that she lived with her grandmother and had few companions. She was educated in private schools in England and toured Europe, studying languages and the art of Italy and France.

Some of her holidays were spent at Oyster Bay on Long Island, close to New York, at the home of her Uncle Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States. He taught her to swim by pitching her into the water. He chased her and her cousins through haystacks and read poetry to them in his gun room. In the political-minded Roosevelt family she absorbed democratic liberalism from its fountainhead.

19 When She Became Engaged

Mrs. Roosevelt was 19 when she became engaged to her handsome cousin, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. They were married on March 17, 1905, and took their wedding trip in Venice, the Dolomites, Paris and London. Their first child, Anna Eleanor, was born in 1906. She is a blonde and energetic counterpart of her mother, is now married to John Boettiger, a newspaper publisher on the Pacific Coast, and is active in newspaper work on her own account. The Roosevelts had five sons. One died. Four others—James, Elliott, Franklin, Jr., and John—are all in the U. S. armed forces, although James, the eldest, is now invalided home.

Mrs. Roosevelt keeps in touch with all the members of her family wherever she happens to be, talking to them by long-distance telephone, flying to join them for anniversaries or special occasions. They and their children come and go at the White House with the flexibility of a large and affectionate family. All the traditional customs are observed at the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The White House has had an abundant amount of family life, with grandchildren and their friends sharing to the full in the hospitality of the Roosevelt clan.

Mrs. Roosevelt has always kept pace with her husband in politics, first when he was Governor of New York State, then during three terms in the White House. Her social vision has involved her deeply in the nation's life and has brought her an abundance of criticism as well as praise. On her travels she is unofficial ambassador for the President, observing, taking notes and reporting with the precision of an able executive. She has frequently been ears and eyes to him through the breadth of her personal contacts, the extent and variety of her researches, and her mail, which reflects many aspects of national life.

She follows the proprieties of government procedure in reporting to executives. She gives advice only when asked. Often she reports directly to the executive in charge of certain activities, or sends him a memorandum signed "E.R." with the question: "Do you think anything can be done about this?" Her strongest interests are along the lines of social betterment. She has become an expert on maternal and child welfare, on youth movements, housing, health, industrial injustice and social ills.

Has Had Criticism, Too

Criticism of Eleanor Roosevelt has followed three main channels—her constant travels, her acceptance of money for writing, radio work and lectures, and her affiliation with certain political elements. Periodic outbursts of public criticism have left her untouched. She has gone quietly on her way, following her own instincts and helping the underdog wherever the need arose.

It is now generally understood that her earnings are turned over to charitable causes. Her reply to this type of criticism is always the same that the people who need the money she earns are more important than her own prestige, and that any person has the right to do what he thinks best for the public good.

She is deeply interested in the cause of labour and refused to cross a picket line against a hotel even to attend a ball for the Infantile Paralysis Fund held in Virginia. She brushed off a storm of criticism when she backed an old friend, Mrs. Caroline O'Day, for public office in New York State and she weathered severe attacks for her support of the American Youth Congress, a radical organization which she later abandoned when it took a line she disapproved. She was a consistent supporter of the U.S National Youth Administration, now disbanded. Mrs. Roosevelt is recognized throughout the United States as the champion of the young and their right to express themselves.

The popular American custom of using a poll as a touchstone of public opinion was applied to Mrs. Roosevelt in 1939. It showed that 68 per cent of the people approved of her. More young people than old were on her side, and she was rated more popular with low-income groups than with the more prosperous. The poll was taken when criticism of her was at its height. Since then her prestige has been strengthened and she is accepted as an individualist of energy, purpose and achievement.

Newspaper Column Popular

Her diverse interests are mirrored for a large reading public in her syndicated newspaper column "My Day." Started in 1935, it now appears around the world and reaches an audience of 4,500,000 persons. It is chatty, detailed and at time platitudinous. She writes it herself, dictating to her secretary under all manner of circumstances—sometimes with a grandchild in her lap, often sitting by the roadside or riding in cars or airplanes. She has been known to keep the President waiting parked in a car after a public function while she dashed off "My Day." She never misses a deadline and if necessary will rush into a telegraph office and get it on the wire personally.

During her first seven years in the White House she sold 51 articles, wrote three books, including her autobiography, planned two others and helped edit various works by other writers. She declined a Hollywood offer to appear in ten motion-picture shorts, is shy of the screen, but has appeared in various newsreels. Her radio work and lectures have brought her into close touch with millions of her fellow Americans. She is not always an effective public speaker. Her voice at times is high-pitched, but the warmth and naturalness of her delivery and her material provide their own impact, and produce a friendly reaction. She answers questions on diverse subjects: How she scrambles eggs for the Sunday night suppers at the White House; whether the President uses an alarm clock; her views on democracy, her views on everything from hats to post-war plans. She quickly throws her subject into focus, for her intelligence and political instinct rarely fail her.

Although a confirmed flier she takes trains on her lecture tours to be sure of keeping her schedule. She thinks nothing of spending five nights in a row on trains and she never asks for special favours. She has a business-like attitude in all her professional dealings. After the wedding of her son Franklin to Ethel du Pont, she travelled ten miles in the rain to Wilmington, Delaware, to make her regular broadcast, then returned for the wedding reception. On occasions she has returned to radio stations at midnight to rebroadcast her programmes.

She has broken many precedents, has expressed her views on many controversial issues, has entertained all manner of monarchs, celebrities, exiles and protagonists of various causes. Few occupants of the White House have excelled her in formal state ceremonial; none has so freely broken down the barriers for informal entertaining. She is equally at home in the White House; at the Roosevelt country home near Hyde Park, New York; at Warm Springs in the south; at Campobello, the family camp off the Maine and Canadian Coast or in her own apartment in New York City.

Formality And Informality

It was typical of her individual approach to entertaining that the state function in Washington for King George and Queen Elizabeth was impeccable in its conservatism and that the picnic given for them at Hyde Park included hot dogs (smoked sausages) and the gay spirit typical of a Roosevelt outing. The President drove the Queen in his own small car. The children and neighbours all had a good view of the visiting monarchs in friendly communion with America's first family.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands and the Crown Princes and Princesses of Norway, Sweden and Denmark all have been her guests. Royal visitors travelling incognito are usually entertained at Hyde Park. Protocol is strictly observed by Mrs. Roosevelt.

Entertainers of all kinds have appeared before Roosevelt guests in the White House—the singers of spirituals of the South, "hill-billy" bands, tap dancers, gypsies, monologists, itinerant musicians, whistlers, cowboys and many varieties of native talent, as well as the nation's leading artists.

As a means of fostering international friendships, Mrs. Roosevelt instituted a series of formal luncheons in her early days in the White House to which she invited the wives of foreign diplomats and of U. S. Senators and Representatives. To turn the spotlight on the work of women in responsible government positions, she held a series of teas for the women executives in each department, winding up with a spring garden party. She has given innumerable teas for women attending conventions in Washington and has done away with velvet ropes at the White House, giving the public free access to the Red and Green parlors and other public rooms. Her endurance in receiving lines is in keeping with her vigorous approach to all her public duties.

Good Relations With Press

Mrs. Roosevelt has established excellent relations with the press. She holds regular press conferences like her husband, answers questions freely and bars men from these gatherings. She is the first President's wife to hold such conferences. Because of this policy many more newspaperwomen now work in the Washington field. Their children attend the White House parties for Mrs. Roosevelt's own grandchildren. She is godmother to some of them. She has been known to file a news story for a reporter. As the author of a newspaper column, she considers herself a member of the craft and belongs to the American Newspaper Guild, a labour union. When she entered the White House was a teacher by profession. She has already disclosed that when she leaves it she will devote her time to writing and public speaking.

When a newspaper woman asked her some time ago: "What will you wear at the diplomatic reception?" she replied: "I haven't the slightest idea. But I might as well decide right now. That cream satin will do. You remember it?"

This is typical of her attitude to clothes. All her frocks, hats and accessories are chosen with an eye to utility for travel. She likes warm colours, sweeping lines, woollens and sweaters. She buys a number of things at once, concentrating all her attention on what she is doing and then forgetting about it. She buys Christmas gifts all the year round, mostly crafts and native products picked up as she travels.

When she visited England in October 1942, her energy amazed all who came in contact with her, among them the conductor of the train which bore her to Paddington Station. At Buckingham Palace she occupied a suite restored after having been wrecked by a German bomb. She toured the bombed areas, spent a night at the home of Prime Minister Churchill, was greeted with "Hello, Eleanor" at the Washington Club (rendezvous of American troops) and went right on speaking to the women of the British armed services when an air-raid alarm sounded.

Practical In Politics

When President Roosevelt was nominated at the Chicago Democratic Party convention in 1940 she was hurriedly summoned there by James A. Farley, a political leader who has described her as "the most practical woman I ever met in politics with a genius for organization, a real sense of politics."

She sat at the controls of the plane part of the way along the Hudson River and arrived in the hurly-burly of the convention with her usual calm.

"Are you happy about the nomination?" she was asked.

"Happy!" she exclaimed. "I don't know how anyone could be particularly happy about the nomination in the present state of the world. It's a tremendous responsibility to be nominated for the Presidency." On that occasion she delivered a speech generally considered one of the best and most apt of her career.

In the thick of a political convention, as the guest of Maoris in New Zealand, of miners in the coal regions of America or of rulers, she is always completely herself—Eleanor Roosevelt, commonly known as the "Working Woman of the White House."—USOWI.

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BOOKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

MISCELLANEOUS BOOKS

RUSSIA UNDER THE SOVIET RULE: By Prof. J. C. Bahl.

This pamphlet sets forth in brief all that is worth knowing about the Soviet. The style is racy and the language easy as the article was originally written for a lecture delivered under the auspices of the National War Front.

* * *

WHAT PAKISTAN? By Ram Rai; New Book Company; Bombay; Price Re. 1.

The author has here tried to analyse the idea of Pakistan and to admeasure the objects and activities of the various political parties in India. He has made a conscious effort to appear impartial but in spite of it reveals a definite inclination towards Hindu Mahasabhaite doctrines.

* * *

W. C. BONNERJEE: SNAPSHOT FROM HIS LIFE AND LETTERS: By Maniklal Mukerjee; Deshbandhu Book Depot, Calcutta. Price Rs. 2.

Mr. Mukerjee intends giving the reader a few close glimpses into the life of Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee, the first and eighth President of the Indian National Congress, mainly through his London letters. But the glimpses caught are very few as the author tells us more about the relatives of Mr. Bonnerjee than about that distinguished leader himself Written in slip-shod English, and its pages merely filled up by constant repetition of text and remarks, the book fails to make good reading.

* * *

GRAM UDYOGONU SOOCHIPATRA: Published by Gramodyog, Gandhi Haat, Ahmedabad .

This is an illustrated catalogue of Swadeshi hand-made articles that can be had at Gandhi Haat, Ahmedabad. All lovers of Swadeshi will be delighted to see the surprising range of articles they can now have ....anything from shoes and fountain pens to elegant tea-sets and exquisitely carved furniture.

C. N.

JANG AUR MALIYAH. By Imtiaz Husain Khan. Published by Idara-e-Aab-e-Jadid, Shahrah-e-Usmani, Hyderabad, Deccan, Crown 8vo. Pp. 63. As. 12.

This little pamphlet has been written for the benefit of those who want to understand the relation between the monetary policy of Government and the war. The attempt is successful and the subject has been tackled in a way which can be understood even by a layman.

Z. A. B.

A Sikh Guru

GURU TEGH BAHADUR By Raja SIR DALJIT SINGH, Northern India Printing and Publishing Co., Lahore.

This is the biography of a great leader. In 1622 A.D., there was born in Amritsar a boy who was later to show, both by precept and example, the kind of life that leads man away from things of the moment to those of eternity. Under astonishing circumstances which at once won the hearts of his followers, Tegh Bahadur become the ninth Guru in succession to Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh religion. From childhood, Tegh Bahadur had been of a meditative frame of mind, concentrating his energies on the noble virtues of life. He gave visible evidence of his faith in these virtues when he asked his assailants to be free, even when a mere word from him would have brought instant death to them. He travelled over parts of India and Assam and everywhere he preached the leading or a righteous life and harmlessness. He called upon his people to look within their hearts, if they wished to find God and assured them that their search would be rewarded if their hearts were pure. He counselled renunciation of egoism and devotion to the service of humanity. For him caste had no significance.

These are some of the high lights of his life as given by Raja Sir Daljit Singh in his biography of the Guru. It provides inspiring reading. The portrayal of the Guru's life is made vivid by means of anecdotes and reports of his conversations. The last 26 pages give an English translation of the Guru's shlokas.

N. H. P.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENCY EXPERIENCE

LEAGUE OF NATIONS PUBLICATION: 1944. II.A. 4 Prices: paper bound dol. 2.75; 12/6 cloth bound dol. 3.75; 15/-

A survey of international monetary relations between the two wars, designed particularly to bring out conclusions of value for the task of reconstruction after the present war. The period covered—one of the most eventful in monetary history furnishes a wealth of evidence concerning almost every conceivable type of international currency mechanism. This study examines, accordingly, the operation and breakdown of the gold and gold exchange standard; devaluations and fluctuating exchanges; the emergence of currency groups such as the sterling area and the gold bloc; the trend of central such as the sterling area and banking policies in relation to gold movements; the rise of exchange stabilization funds; exchange control and bilateral clearing arrangements, etc. Special attention is paid to the capital needs of the world's backward areas; the problems of primary producing countries; the disturbances caused by "hot money" transfers; the impact of booms and depressions on the balance of international payments. The conclusions of the survey point the way to a system in which stable exchanges and increased trade are promoted through international co-ordination of domestic policies for the maintenance of employment and economic stability.

Here are some of the general questions discussed in this book: Why did the automatic gold-standard mechanism break down? What are the basic conditions required for a system of stable exchanges in the future? If gold is used as a means of internatonal settlement, what methods are there for regulating the supply of it in relation to demand? What are the pre requisites for the successful functioning of an exchange-reserve system such as the gold exchange standard or the sterling area? How can individual countries make use of gold or exchange reserves as a "buffer" against deflationary or inflationary effects of fluctuations in their balance of payments? What are the basic factors governing the need, the desire and the ability of various types of countries to hold reserves for this purpose? How are the "correct" exchange rates to be determined between the different currencies? In what circumstances may adjustments of exchange rates be necessary or appropriate? What can be done about speculative capital movements of the "hot money" type? How can exchange control be avoided or, in cases where it cannot be avoided, how can it be made to operate with the least disturbance to trade?

It is mainly in the light of practical experience that these and other questions are considered; and thus the book provides a review of the whole course of international monetary developments during the inter-war period. Quite apart from the lessons it draws for the future therefore, this review of two critical decades of monetary history should alone be of interests to a wide public. The work is the only one of its kind that has yet appeared.

Two Topical Books

Hind Kitabs, Bombay, have brought out two topical books, "The Chinese Exodus" by Prof. J. C. Daruvala, (price Rs. 4/8) and "Is Pākistan Necessary?" by V. B. Kulkarni (price Rs. 3/12).

Children's Own Corner

Conducted by

BALKAN-JI-BARI — THE ALL-INDIA CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

My dear Sisters & Brothers,

Christmas is almost a universal festival celebrated on the 25th December, writes Mrs. Mohindar Sant Singh of Poona. It is the birthday of Jesus Christ. He was born 1944 years ago in a small village called Bethleham, to very poor parents. At the time of his birth, his parents were putting up in a stable, so he first saw the light of day in a manger.

About the childhood of Jesus, very little is known. At the age of thirty he started preaching a strange doctrine of Love, Sacrifice and Humility. He taught about the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. His teachings struck at the root of selfishness, greed, power and riches, which alarmed the leaders of his nation.

They betrayed him to the Romans who were rulers of the land at the time. He was condemned to die without being accused of any guilt, and was crucified along with two thieves.

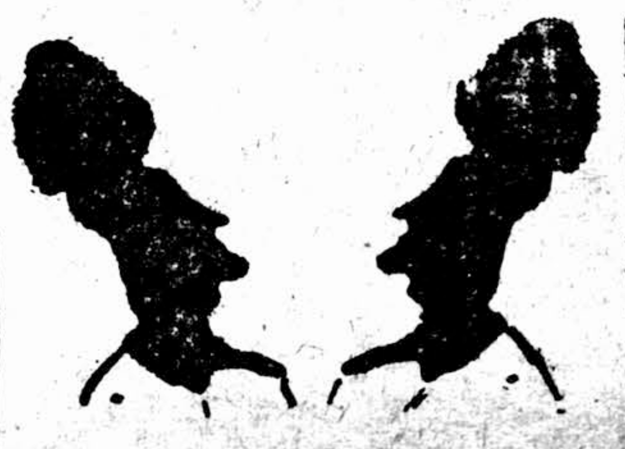
The teachings of Christ are deep but simple, and even in these days they are considered revolutionary. He loved little children very much. Once his followers asked him, "Who was the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven—that is, in the light of God?" Jesus took a little child and brought him in their midst, and said: "Whosoever shall be as humble...... as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Unfortunately, many of his followers do not practise his teachings. Specially in the West where we imagine everyone is a Christian, he is the least known and his teachings the least practised. He said: "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, pray for them that dispitefully use you." Though we celebrate his birthday with great pomp and splendour, eating, drinking, and merry-making, the lowly Christ is left out, and his teachings entirely forgotten.

"Peace on earth, goodwill towards men!"

* * *

Christmas has not always been called Christmas, writes Brother Amarjeet Gopal of Benares, giving certain isolated facts about Christmas. Formerly it was known as Yule and was celebrated on the 6th of February. The three wise men or Magi who offered gifts to the infant Jesus were three kings—viz., Melchoir of Nabia, Balthazar of Childea and Gasper of Tarshish. The Gospels of Mark and John do not contain any Christmas story. Luke, on the other hand, contains practically all the facts known about the life of Jesus, the Christ, except the one about the Magi



When your fountain-pen splutters and makes a blot—fold the paper so that the ink spreads. You may have an amusing pattern such as the above one. If you wish, make a few very slight additions—In the example reproduced only the shoulder lines have been added.

The celebration of Christmas was actually forbidden in England in 1644 by the Puritans, and even to-day it is observed far less in Scotland than in England. Santa Claus and Christmas Tree, Mistletoe and Holly have all been taken over, in fact, from non-Christian religious festivals. Use of holly originally came from the Saturnalia of the Roman world and mistletoe from the old Druids who considered it very sacred.

In many a European country Father Christmas is unknown. They have Mother Christmas instead. In Scandinavian countries Kris [illegible], Mother Christmas, is supposed to bring the mysterious gifts. The Swedes believe that the benevolent donor is St. Lucy, a Sicilian Maiden who was martyred because of her extreme love for children in the 4th century. According to the children of Switzerland St. Lucy was the wife of good St. Nichols, and at Christmas-tide she helps her husband by carrying the gifts to all good girls, while he carries them to the boys.

The Russians believe that the mysterious gifts are brought by 'Babuska', or the Grandmother, and similarly, in Poland it is an old maid that brings them. In France Father Christmas is known as 'Bouhomme', and in Germany he is called 'Kris-skingle', while in Denmark it is the kind God Odin who brings them.

The Christmas rose is not a rose in reality, but a hellebore of the buttercup family. It was Southey who wrote "The Holly Tree", the famous poems in praise of holly. "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" was written by Charles Wesley (1707-88). Sir Issac Newton, the Prince of Mathematicians, was born on a Christmas day

In Scotland as well as in France and Belgium, the New Year's Day supplants Christmas as the time for exchange of gifts. In Germany the children dismantle their Christmas trees on the New Year Day.

* * *

I have a novel idea to give you for your Christmas Cards this time. Just cut out the pictures appearing in this "Corner," paste them one each on ordinary post cards, along with the "letter-press" or without it as you like—(in the latter case you will have to complete them yourselves, of course),—and send them, with your best wishes, to your friends. I am sure, you will like this suggestion and your friends, too, will appreciate it.

Happy Christmas Greetin

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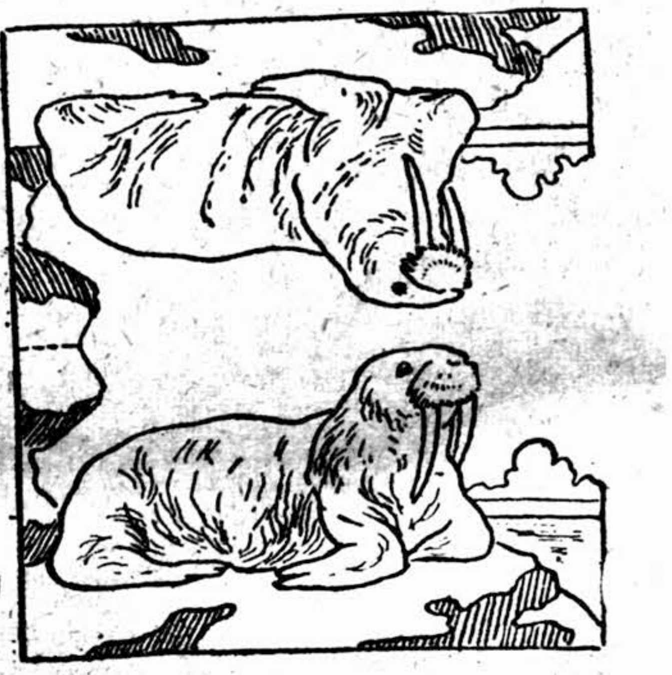
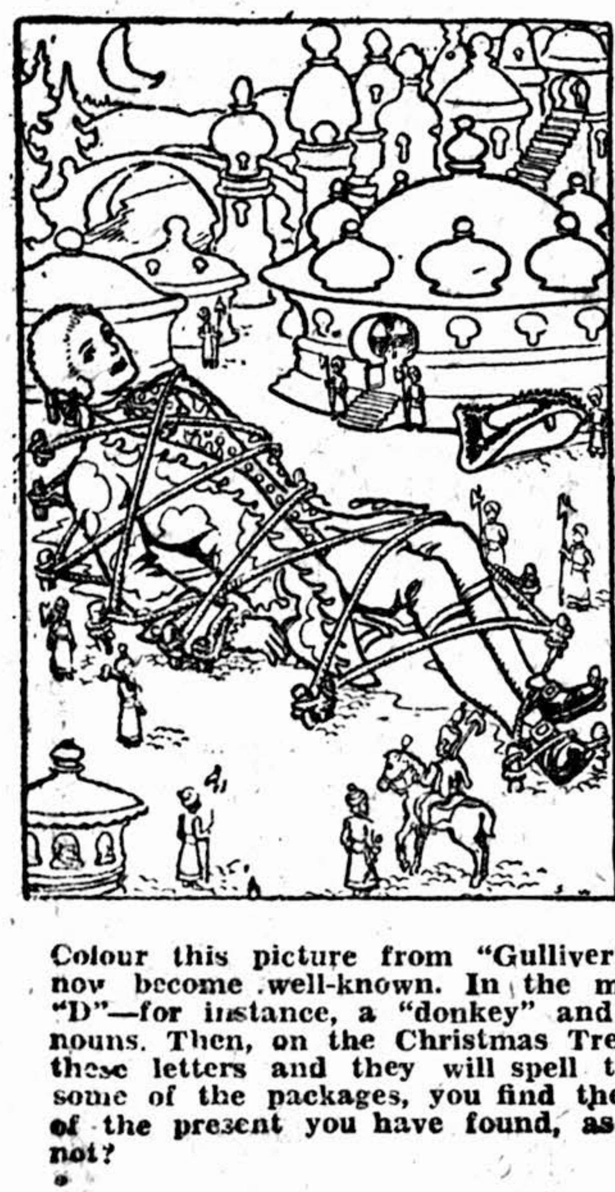
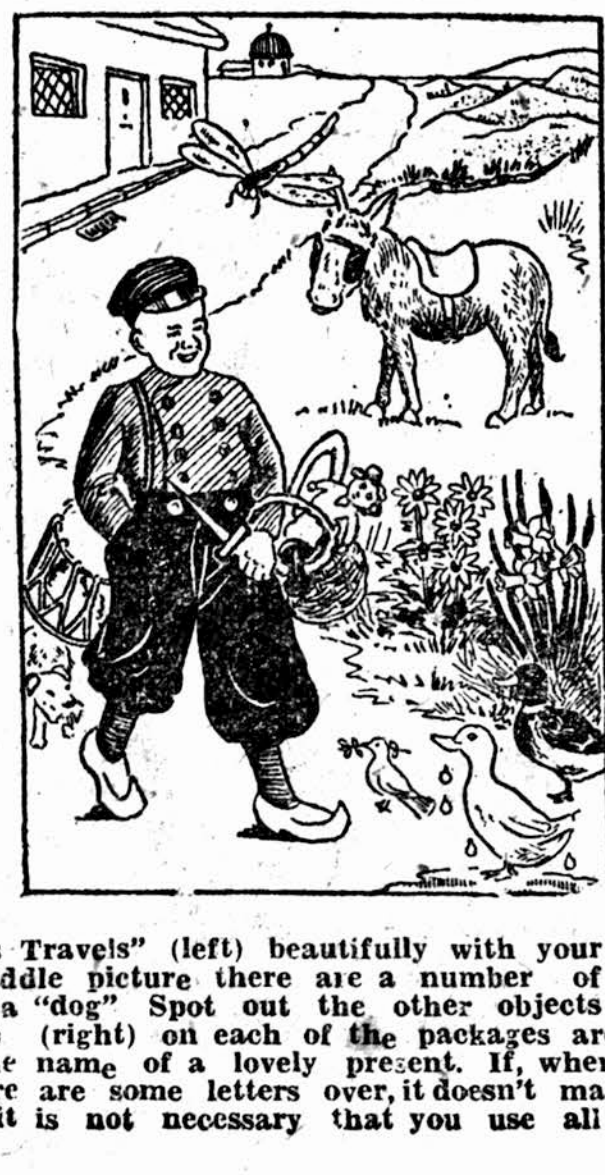
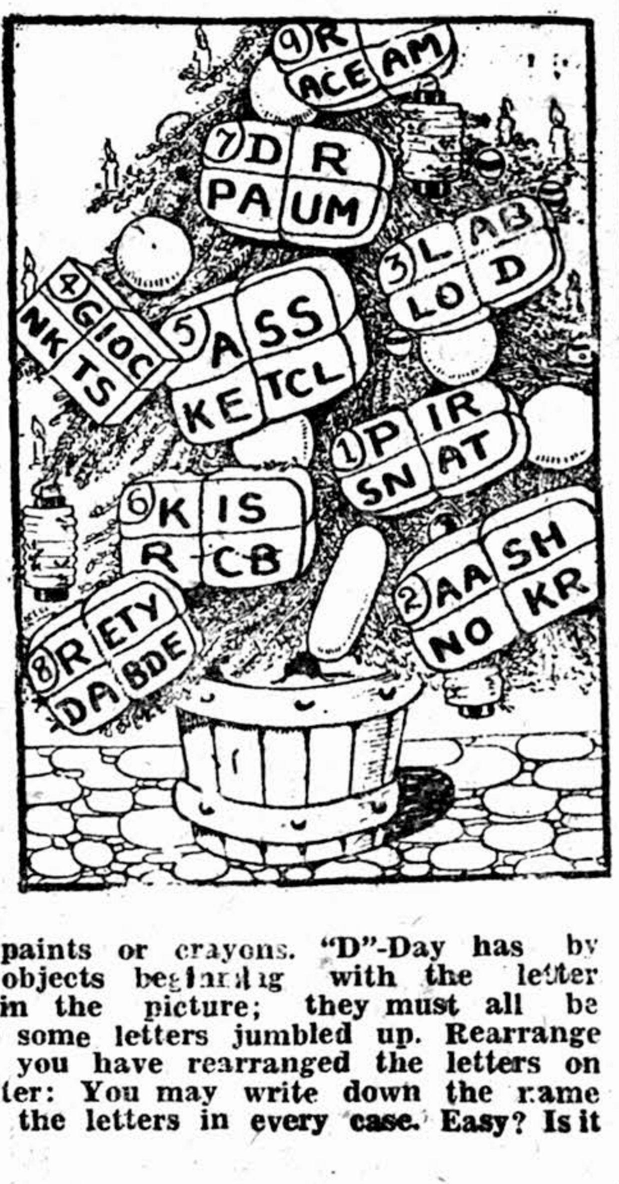


A Zoo Model: It is a Walrus When coloured, it will appear beautiful. After pasting it on the Post Card, if it is bent back on the dotted line, it will stand upright.







Colour this picture from "Gulliver's Travels" (left) beautifully with your paints or crayons. "D"-Day has by now become well-known. In the middle picture there are a number of objects beginning with the letter "D"—for instance, a "donkey" and a "dog" Spot out the other objects in the picture; they must all be nouns. Then, on the Christmas Tree (right) on each of the packages are some letters jumbled up. Rearrange these letters and they will spell the name of a lovely present. If, when you have rearranged the letters on some of the packages, you find there are some letters over, it doesn't matter: You may write down the name of the present you have found, as it is not necessary that you use all the letters in every case. Easy? Is it not?

A Modern Miracle?

Catholic Communists!

By Richard Kendrick

Shades of orthodox Christians and orthodox Marxists, what have we in come! Catholic Communists! Details of this seemingly contradictory phenomenon were disclosed recently by PM's foreign editor, Alexander H. Uhl, who had interviewed a leader of this movement.

The Catholic Communist movement, which at one time of Nazi occupation was one of the most influential underground organisations, is independent of both the Catholic Church and the Communist Party. Although its members are practising Catholics deeply devoted to the Church and its spiritual teachings, they are also Marxists whose social and economic ideas are closely akin to those of the Communist Party of Italy.

War indeed produces strange bedfellows! For years, Catholicism and Communism were at opposite [illegible] of the ideological pole. For [illegible] gious persecution in revolutionary Russia had shocked and [illegible] churchmen in all other nations. Moreover, it had driven devout Catholics and others into the arms of Dictators. Hitler, Mussolini and Franco, who repeatedly warned of the westward march of Bolshevism.

RELIGION IN U.S.S.R.

Plodding Joe Stalin realized this none too quickly. The Constitution of the U.S.S.R. was liberalized in 1936 to provide freedom of religious worship as well as of anti-religious propaganda. During the war, however, religious worship in Russia not only has been tolerated but encouraged, the Patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church has won the official recognition of the Government, and plans are being made for the setting up of a Theological Seminary in Moscow.

Despite the appearance of Catholic Communists in Rome, the complete conciliation of Catholicism and Communism is far from realized. But the trend is definitely noticeable. The adversities of war have forced both sides to do a little soul-searching. The spiritual resistance of the Church in occupied lands has won for it the respect and admiration of patriots throughout Europe. Moreover, the bitter effects of fascism and war have prompted Christian leaders to seek a social order more compatible with their religious idealism.

In addition to this, the social conditions created by war have provided in Europe a ready harvest for Marxist reaping. Millions of people have been deprived of the minimum necessities of life uprooted from their homes for conscript labour in Germany, and have been persecuted and ruled by privileged classes collaborating with occupying authorities. The lowering of living standards is leading Europe into a distinctly proletarian civilization which may ultimately require a proletarian answer for its problems, namely Marxism.

WAY TO PEACE

Many Americans cringe at the idea of a Communist Europe, but the cure must be made to fit the disease, and in this case, "one man's meat may be another man's poison." After this war, will Europeans have a stomach for the constant bickerings of different ethnic and racial groups, and the decisive liberalism by which the propertied classes maintained their power and prevented social progress? Will they still tolerate nationalism, economic divisions, autarchy and expansionist wars? Or will they long for a united and equalitarian civilization in which they can live in peace and security?

Imperfect though it is, the Soviet Union has been the one political entity in this world which has conclusively demonstrated that peoples of many nations and races can live together peaceably without undue sacrifice of their autonomous loyalties and cultures. Economic and political centralization may not be ideal from the democratic view point, should Europe go Communist, but it would pave the way for Continental peace. And the peace of Europe, as history has negatively proven, is a pre-requisite of World Peace. (Worldover Press.)

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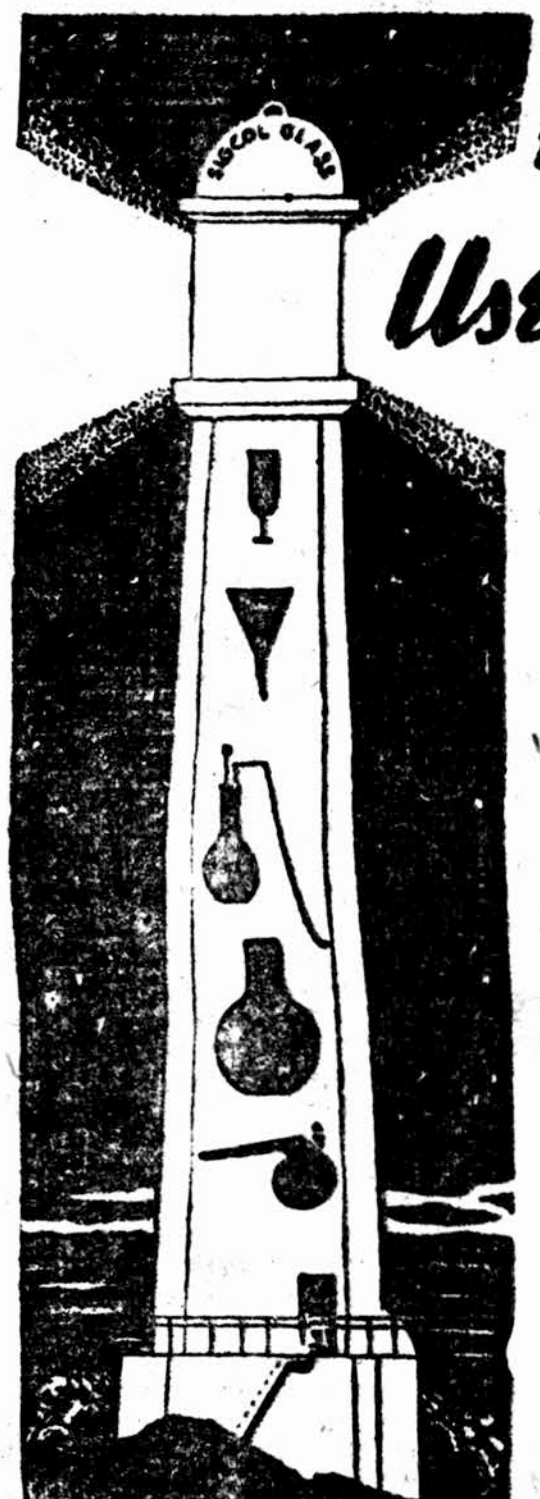

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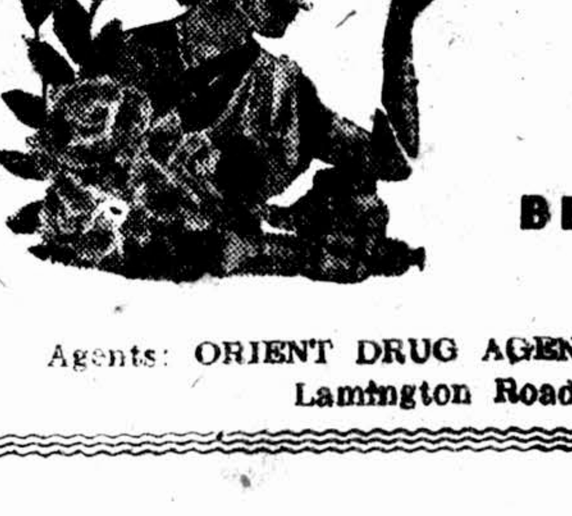

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The LAST PAGE

Conducted by CHRONICLER

Once upon a time—not so long ago . . . . .

In a little country surrounded by high mountains on three sides and the sea on the fourth, there lived a hardy and industrious people.

They were hardy and industrious but they were not happy. The scourge of tyranny lay over the land. The toilers reaped not the harvest of their toil, the landowners and exploiters took it away from them. The people were denied not only organization but education as well. Patiently silently, they suffered without a murmur of protest. That was their destiny.

But beyond the frontiers of the little country dynamic events were shaking the earth. Tyrants were being overthrown, the weak were at last inheriting the earth. Slowly, inevitably, the rumbles of revolt reached this land and echoed through the hills and valleys.

The people—some of them at least—became conscious of their rights. But one by one the leaders of protest were hanged or imprisoned. The revolt was suppressed but, like a prairie fire, it smouldered in the undergrowth.

Then, it happened that a super-tyrant rose to power in a neighbouring country and decided to conquer the world. The shadow of his bombers fell over the little country and his tanks rumbled across the weakly-guarded frontiers.

The rulers and the exploiters and their bejewelled ladies packed their suit-cases and took "the last train out" leaving the common people to the tender mercies of the invaders. Some of them, of course, were already in league with the invader and so remained to welcome him.

While the members of the Government-in-exile were dining and wining in a foreign capital the people of the little country—the workers and the peasants, the students and the intellectuals—were carrying on gureilla warfare against the aggressor. At first they had no arms but they snatched them from the enemy Later they began to get arms secretly from allies in other lands and with these they were able to give a hot time to the aggressors.

And then one day out of the blue sea an armada of Allied ships emerged. The great blow for liberation was struck. The patriots and their foreign allies, between them finished off the army of occupation. Thanks to the efforts of the people, the little country was free again. More than that. The PEOPLE felt they too were free at last!

But in the wake of the army of liberation arrived the rulers and the exploiters. Now that it was safe they could return home! They installed themselves in seats of power and started methodically putting down the people, restoring the old tyranny.

But now it was not so easy to suppress the people's movement. They were organised. They were armed. They had sacrificed their lives to free their country—not to turn it over to their old exploiters! They struck back!

They almost won—but then a strange thing happened. The soldiers of the Allies who had gone over to liberate the little country were now ordered to break down popular resistance against the unpopular Government. And, boys who had volunteered to fight for liberty were used to deny liberty to the people of the little country.

What is the name of this little country? What does it matter? It might be Greece. It might be Yugoslavia or Bulgaria or Poland or Belgium or Holland. India is not a little country but it might have been India!

The important thing to remember is that this cruel paradox exists and will continue to be a menace till the people of the world realize their responsibility and put a stop to it!

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This IS The Other Side!

Mr. Harishchandra B. Bhatt has written me a very kind letter after reading last week's LAST PAGE. It is too long to be reproduced in full but I might quote a few sentences:—

> "It has become a fashion to write in a derogatory way about the Poles as individuals and the Poles as a nation......there are many Poles who are against British or any imperialism......Their literature is one of the richest in Europe. Dramas of Wyspianksi on the Revolution of 1830-31 could teach us and rouse us from the apathy in which our political life has fallen. But here everything about this unfortunate nation, if not taboo, is distorted......
>
> "There is no other nation to whom independence is passionate religion. There is no battlefield in Europe where the Poles have not fought for liberty of other nations......
>
> "There is no nation which has not its weaker side but in India we do not know much about the positive contribution of these smaller nations......Politics is not a game played with fair means. There are many who will show only the black side of a thing—but there is always the other side of the medal and we as subjugated nation should—in my modest opinion—try to see the other side also."

I fully agree with Mr. Bhatt. Didn't I make it clear that, in spite of my unhappy experience of fat rich sharkskin—clad ruling-class Poles, and, I might add, in spite of the recent insulting treatment meted out in a train to Mr. Ramrao Deshmukh by Polish refugees settled in Kolhapur, "I have still my fullest sympathies with the common people of Poland who have suffered the brutalities of the Nazis"? I might have added—and I do so now—that I have the greatest admiration for the great contribution Polish savants and scholars, artists and musicians, have made to the culture of Europe. I know that the people—THE PEOPLE—of Poland are intensely patriotic. Their history is full of inspiring examples of their patriotism. If Mr. Bhatt will refer to the back numbers of the "Chronicle Weekly" he will find this was the first paper in India to publish a series of articles on Poland, Polish culture and their repeated fights for freedom. But that does not mean we should also praise all reactionary Poles or allow them to exploit our sympathy for Poland for anti-Soviet and anti-Communist propaganda which smacks of Goebbels and the anti-Comintern?

With due deference to Mr. Bhatt's laudable sentiments, I do not know how he got the idea that "it has become a fashion to write in a derogatory way about the Poles". I think it is the other way about. Where has he come across derogatory references to Poles? In how many papers? Or in what circles? Among parlour pinks, silk-clad "nationalists" and arty-arty "Society" snobosseurs, it is fashionable to talk of the Government of Poland in most endearing terms. Most of our capitalist press uses the Russo-Polish dispute to denounce Communism in the guise of sympathy for Poland. THE LAST PAGE and the CHRONICLER have been guilty of many demeanours—but we have never before been accused of being fashionable!

"Oh, my deah that horrible, horrible noospaperman—he can't even spell the word FASHION!"

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Not Under Cover!

Evidently, to substantiate what the LAST PAGE had to say last week, one of our readers sends the following remarks on the subject of anti-Communist and pro-Fascist propaganda carried on in India:—

> Things need hardly be done 'under cover' in this country. The Congressmen and other Indian nationalist 'politicals' only are the suspects and potential mischief-makers in the police eyes. The American papers recently stated that General Franco was in such anxious hurry to forward to the Nazis the valuable consignments he received from London and Washington that he did not even bother to change the crates with their Anglo-American markings. This continued till the French railway and territory were liberated by the Allied forces.
>
> Franco's friends and supporters in Bombay have always been doing things in El Caudillo's style. It is doubtful whether the 'Communist Branch' of the Police maintains "dosiers" of the propagandists who work as clearing agents of William Joyce, better-known as Lord Haw Haw of the German Overseas Radio. Before the war Joyce had founded the "Right Book Club" in London with the help of several of Von Ribbentrop's aristocratic British friends and active Nazi agents. Some of the latter were later executed. But the Joyce literature has been propagated in an organized manner with the help of "Catholic Action", a powerful international organization with head-office in Rome in Mussolini's time supposedly spreading the gospel of Christ and combating Bolshevism and modern progressive ideas of democracy and liberty.
>
> To-day when paper is being rationed, the reactionary pro-Polish propaganda and anti-Soviet propaganda continue to be carried on. S. R. Ali's poisonous pamphlet 'Communism and Victory' is circulated by Franco's friends and the Axis (including Jap) press and radio propaganda is skilfully absorbed in the sectarian literature. It may be news to Bombay's citizens that they are maintaining a college in the city which built a monument to Caudillo Francisco Franco.

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Book News

The Chinese Ministry of Information is arranging the publication of a Chinese edition of Lin Yutang's "BETWEEN TEARS AND LAUGHTER". Of this book Pearl Buck wrote: "This is not the book of one angry man, it is the voice of a whole angry people." Quatrich Wales, writing in "Saturday Review of Literature," says: "BETWEEN TEARS AND LAUGHTER" reflects not only China's but all Asia's attitude towards us (Americans as well as Europeans)." The book, need one add, is STILL NOT AVAILABLE IN INDIA—after over a year of its publication!

Upton Sinclair's hero, Lanny Budd, is still going strong. After "World's End", "Between Two Worlds" and "Dragon's Teeth" two more volumes of his adventures in the realm of world politics have appeared—"Wide Is The Gate" and the latest, "Presidential Agent." Strangely enough, these two volumes are still unavailable in India.

But, my book-seller tells me, "Why worry about Lin Yutang and Upton Sinclair when Beverley Nichols's "Verdict On India" is available? As many copies as you might wish. No paper control where dear Mister Nichols is concerned." The information is passed on to the readers—if that is the kind of literary poison they relish!

After the phenomenal success of his OUR INDIA (probably the greatest best-seller produced by an Indian author during the last 10 years), M. R. Masani has come out with another constructive and informative little book. It is called "YOUR FOOD" and is the first of "Tata Studies in current affairs" to be published for Tata Sons Limited by Padma Publications. It is written and illustrated in the OUR INDIA style—which means that it is both readable and informative. Priced at a rupee, it is certainly a bargain. More such booklets, we are informed, will be published from time to time.

Gandhiji still continues to be the most popular topic for current books. The latest is Professor Agarwal's "THE GANDHIAN PLAN of Economic Development for India" (Padma Publications, Price: Rs. 2/8). In a Foreword Gandhiji says: "I commend the treatise to the careful attention of every student of the present deplorable condition of the country."

That the impact of the national freedom struggle must inevitably be felt on all forms of art and literature—including poetry—is once again illustrated by H. D. Sethna's STRUGGLING HEIGHTS, a slim volume of poems (Karnatak Publishing House, Price: Rs. 1/4). Poems like "My Country, the Great Mother", "The Soil", "The Dead Student", "Freedom's Tryst" and "A Night Air-Raid", show that the poet is in tune with his times.

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B.B.C. Calling!

I seldom listen-in to the B.B.C. or the A.I.R. but evidently there are others who do. A friend of the LAST PAGE sends the following pungent comments on the B.B.C.'s Indian programmes:—

> The BBC apparently suffers from the common Royalty Complex. Last Sunday Princess Indira of Kapurthala merely read out a rehash of newspaper reports already stale and boring of the Winston Churchill harangue on the British policy in Greece. The princess speaks very much like Sir Ranganathan, the High Commissioner of India and other Indians who would talk like little Englishmen and Englishwomen. She might have been a Ranee of Sarawak—one means, the one who is 100 per cent Brooke and English.
>
> The princess with her slightly masculine voice—I first thought it was a man—was as dull as BBC knows how to make it. It may be good Churchill propaganda, but the BBC could at least learn from the Voice of America, Columbia Broadcasting, National Broadcasting and other network systems and make a Churchill record instead of its His Master's Voice version of the Punjabi princess'. As propaganda even it's ridiculous.

PRINCESS INDIRA
Does B. B C. suffer from Royalty Complex?

> "Kyaun sab . .? Ye avaz baccheka hai, aur ye billika hai". This is Muhammad Afzal or Aslam Malik in between the dope of that bore, Wickham Stead 'the former editor of the "Times" of London' as the regular BBC woman announcer sings. Too much of Wickham Stead—every Indian Station forces him down your sore throat—and particularly in Hindustani as though the short-wave listeners didn't know English or, if it is meant for Government's village propaganda sets the peasants of this country were familiar with European affairs background and could understand Wickham Stead's platitudes.
>
> And what recordings in the 'Canpari Avaz'! Beggars and Maratha "bahurupis" (quickchange artists) put up a much better show than the BBC 'canpari avaz' clowing. Last week I was privileged to hear an artist in a local train (whom I paid an anna) doing the donkey much better than the BBC's. His cats and dogs and canaries were much more convincing. Evidently, the gentlemen of the BBC are living in radio tubes and cabinets not to see how ridiculous they appear to the ordinary Indian listener. I had hoped Jayakishori Handoo who, poor girl, couldn't escape the omnipresent ond omniscent Wickham Stead—what the devil does he know about the Indian housewife's problems to have had the audacity to preside over the so-called symposium?—would ginger up things. Jayakishori has however proved a flop if the lady will excuse my saying it.

B.B.C.'s Director of Listener Research, please copy—and forward this to the "Home" office!

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When Is Superstition Not Superstition?

The remarks made on this page some weeks ago about the film "SONG OF BERNADETTE" seem to have had a mixed reception. From the letters received on the subject two are reproduced below—one upholding the 'Chronicler's stand and the other denouncing it:

A. U. writes:

"Please allow me to congratulate you for your excellent and timely criticism of the film "The Song of Bernadette", published in the "Chronicle" of last Sunday. I am feeling so enthusiastic over it—hence this letter. But you have stolen my thoughts and put them in your words! Only on Saturday night I stopped three persons from seeing this picture by telling them that this picture glorifies superstition and it would be somewhat like the Indian saint pictures. Imagine how gratified I can be when I open the "Sunday Chronicle" this morning and read your criticism of that picture! I wish more people read it.

But—and this is a big 'But'!—how could you omit to make reference to Mrs. Sarojini Naidu's appreciating remarks that adorned the advertisements of this picture on the first day? I wish you had written something about it, too.

V. M. Noronha writes:

"Your comments in last Sunday's "Bombay Chronicle Weekly" on the film "Song of Bernadette" are mischievous and misleading and are based on a total ignorance of the Catholic religion. I do not know why you go out of your way to wound the feelings of Catholics. Certainly, you who style yourself progressive and national-minded are not in any way promoting communal unity by such writings, rather you appear to think that India is for Hindus and Muslims only.

"As a Catholic, I give below my view on the subject:

"(1) All cures that take place at Lourdes are thoroughly investigated by a committee of eminent medical men.

"(2) Scientists affirm that the water of the spring at Lourdes is not different from water found elsewhere—its miraculous healing powers cannot therefore be adduced to its mineral properties.

"(3) Acting the part of a Saint in a film does not entitle a person to canonization by the Catholic church. Saints are canonized by the Church only after a prolonged searching inquiry.

"Can your rationalism prove to me why 2 plus 2 equal to 4 and not 5?"

No. It can't—being rationalism! But, evidently, you can.—CHRONICLER.

Humorous Skit

By Hiranmay Ghoshal

When The Bug Becomes A Bugbear!!

You bet, you'll enjoy this buggy yarn about a fellow who wanted to write to the Big Four about a little bug!

"Som'un's going to write to the Big Four about it", said my friend Klopoff in the middle of his peroration on the different ways of curing a mackerel. Which made us all suspect whether it was not the impact of sun's rays on his shining pate.

"Well, I am!"—he added with great determination, and shooting up caught hold of his cane chair as if it were an effigy of Tojo himself, then banged it on the floor with all the physical force at his command. "The Atlantic Charter, the Pacific Charter, the Dumbarton Oaks, what-not!"—he continued looking down spitefully from his height of six feet and odd inches on the discomfited chair—"Well, I am going to write to them about it if no one else is. What do all these Charters mean if one of the most fundamental and the most international of problems is going to be left unsolved, I ask you?" He picked up the chair and gave it another terrific hurling on the floor with—"Who is going to tackle the world's Bug Problem?"

It was just like Klopoff whose Muscovite temperament combined with his acquired American tempo made him impatient of things to which any normal individual would give the go-by. After all, a bug is a bug. The bug-dom does not want any colonial expansion. It does not occupy any space on the face of the world which could be utilized for dumping refugees in. A bug never gets in anybody's way, in fact it is too modest to show itself in broad day-light. It does not want to thrust any Neo-Paganism on anybody. It discriminates no races, and being no respecter of persons can be called a true democrat.

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So why should we de-bug the world! That it has an insidious way of approaching you when you least want it to can be put down to its sense of humour. That its practical joke can be far more effective than ordinary leg-pulling is shown by Klopoff's doing a turn of devil dance around his cane chair in the middle of a most cultural gastronomic conversation. A bug did it while our sustained effort at making him see a joke always and always failed miserably! If you told him the funniest story, he was sure to grin and say with a heave of his mighty shoulders—"Well, what about it?"

"Is it not a fact that if one is to take the "—off" off your name the residue means a 'bug' in Russia?"—interrogated Komarek (which means, be it known, a 'mosquito',) another Slav of the party, venturing a banter which fell flat, as Klopoff shook a fist and gave us to understand through mine (in which he was an adept) that we would have our heads taken off our trunks unless we were careful.

Komarek is a much-travelled man. He speaks of Sinaghai, Archangel, London, Paris, San Francisco, Bombay and Honolulu in the same breath and as casually as to give you the impression that any one of those cities was just an hour's run. He has enormous funds of stories and anecdotes (not all of them are clean as new-born babes, it is true), and can make you forget a sty in your eye or an amputated leg. "Well, friends, Romans and citizens."—he said with his usual opening phrase, turning to us— 'if you are in a mood for buggy stories on a Sunday morning, seated on the sacred sands of Juhu, here are some. Let Klopoff have it out with the bug that gave him a friendly pinch on his thigh. That need not bother us save that he may demand double rationing after his morning's constitutional round the cane chair. Let us proceed.

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"I'll tell you what happened to me once in a Siberian town. You wouldn't connect that region with bugs, I know. It's a great place for lice. You can easily discover that, if you have a trained eye, in the subtle shivery gesture of the whole body of a fishermen, packed in wool, and furs, or in the flickery twitch on his cheek which makes him look like a man having a debate with himself on something extremely unpleasant. Any bug and louse expert will tell you that just as lions and tigers do not live in the same forest, so bugs and lice are not on speaking terms with one another.

In fact, a Siberian fisherman would, I believe, pay handsomely for a phial of bugs, healthy and well-preserved, which he wants for his bed to eat up all the young ones of the louse family. Fancy my encountering bugs in Siberia when I thought I had thoroughly de-bugged myself at Hongkong before embarking for Archangel. And the funniest part of it was that I had been nursing an entire colony of bugs, feeding them on my own blood as if they were my offspring, and carrying them with me wherever I went as if they were a handful of the most cherished treasure, as though my intention was to slip them across the frontier past the noses of the customs officials.

"I did not know that I was capable of such subterfuge until I discovered that I had actually done the feat. After a few weeks' stay in that Siberian town, I noticed I had grown certain nervous tricks which made me feel very worried about myself. I was all right except that I suddenly felt jumpy from time to time. I did not know what was really wrong with me. I could go through Mill's Logic in a couple of sittings; I was most consistent, when I had an argument with a fellow; my sleep was undisturbed by any nightmares of my walking in Trocadero without any clothes on.

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I was perfectly normal, and yet the thing visited me from time to time like a sort of philosophic restlessness. In the middle of a tea party in the company of the most charming ladies, for instance, there it was, and I fidgeted, and had to suppress an urge to shoot up from my chair (as Klopoff did a little while ago) and do a few steps of Charleston. I was really alarmed to think that I was at the incipient stage of St. Vitus's dance or Parkinson's disease at the very least.

"Afraid to face a neurologist, I administered to myself whatever nerve tonic I read of advertised in the local papers. But sad to say, I felt stronger and stronger and jumpier and jumpier every day. My friends thought it was too much Vodka, others thought it was my too many affairs which were pushing me on to the verge of a moral disintegration. But neither of them seemed to trouble me much, as I went to bed with a clean conscience, and could sleep like a dormouse for days and nights together, especially as it was after the carnival season and there was no ball to attend.

The trouble began as soon as I was dressed and was ready to go out for the day's work. It was most disconcerting to have to suppress an urge to make faces at the tram conductor when he asked you for the fare, or to kick your legs in the air when your boss discussed with you some matter of grave importance. I thought I had grown a dress complex or some such thing, as in my pyjamas I was the picture of contentment and placidity. And let me be dressed, there I go feeling fidgetty and jumpy all over.

"If the thing continued longer I am not sure whether I wouldn't have done something extremely foolish some day and be put inside a 'home.' But after a month's torture the mystery behind my philosophic restlessness was dispelled at last. I discovered the thing by pure accident, for no Sherlock Holmes would have detected it with any clue.

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"After a horribly jumpy day (the thing obviously was coming to head,) during which I thought I was about to go off several times, I came to my rooms utterly crestfallen, and sat on the edge of my bed, undressing and seriously considering a visit to a neurologist. While taking off my socks I noticed the elastics of my suspenders had grown a little too slack. I had to shift the clasps a little and the pair would last me at least half a year more. So I snap open the clasps, and there they are! A brown patch of about one and a half inches square, under each clasp, of the most well-fed, sleek, plump, and prosperous bugs that ever walked, I mean crawled the earth. Several families with grandpa, 'grandma', progeny, eggs and all!"

"Well, here's another buggy yarn, if you're interested in them", continued Komarek, not caring to stop and note our approval. "I have been through the Great War, the Russian Revolution, the Nazi attack on Poland, the Dunkirk evacuation, and I was at Singapore when the Japs poured in like myriads of bugs. I have managed to forget the grisliest scenes I witnessed on all these occasions. The most hair-raising sight that sticks to my memory to this day is also connected with a bug. It was at Naples which I hope I shall not set my eyes upon again before I die, let alone seeing it and then dying.

At Naples I almost ruined my career, I felt so very much out of gear seeing what I did see on the way to my paper's office. There was I gaily riding in a tram-car through the city of Naples, feeling very much on the top of things, as I was going to get my contract signed for the duration of the war. Everything I cast my eyes upon seemed to have a silver lining. My gaze fluttered about and sat on objects it fancied only for a brief moment like a happy butterfly just released from its chrysalis. I did not think much of the girls, I admit, as they were too bosomy for my taste. But there was the other "W", and I won't deny I wouldn't mind being taken prisoner in Italy if they assured me half a quart of chianti every day and that the prison-guards wouldn't boom arias from Aida into my ears.

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Well, in fact that morning I had denied myself a glass to have a clear head when I talked with the boss, and had been dreaming of a quiet pasta and chianti on my own in a sequestered trattoria looking out on the sea. Do you believe in a bad omen? I do, especially after that day. I was feeling quite merry with my plans for the noon-day meal when I discovered something extremely quaint just vis-a-vis. The seat opposite was occupied by the most Italian-looking of all Italian noblemen. At least I thought he was one, judging by his looks.

He had a frisky sort of pointed beard agitating with every emotion that crossed his mind. He was in the best striped trousers and morning coat I ever came across anywhere. He had a boiled shirt and a high collar, and to match all a perfect white cravat with a diamond on a pin piercing it like the cupid's dart piercing an innocent heart. I somehow liked his appearance, utterly dignified and grand. A sort of man whom you would expect to speak six different languages fluently and elegantly, and tick you off with pure Ciceronian oratory, if you happened to be standing on the tip of his lacquered shoe. Well, there it was like a glaring mockery to his refinement. Just below the diamond on the background of white silk, the brown glazed object, the size of a pea, vying with the brilliant in splendour!

It sat patiently without budging a millimetre, probably it had gone to sleep after a good fare. I couldn't bring myself to draw the attention of the fellow to that object. For one thing it might have been a pet, at least it comported itself as such, and for another I might hurt his sense of personal dignity. So I travelled with the pair a good half hour feeling itchy and scratchy all the time. I forgot all the trump cards I had up my sleeve, and put my signature under terms that practically ruined all that I had built up with twelve years' hard work.

The picture of that fat, placid bug on a white silk cravat below a diamond flashed before my mind's eye every time I had something to say to score a point in my favour as I talked with the boss. All I could do was to stammer out a few words, falter and leave the sentence unfinished. On that day there was not a more half-hearted journalist than my own self. That I am not a sub in the "Cincinnati Rising Sun" is the work of that infernal entomo."

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"Here's another"—Komarek went on obviously relishing his vengeance by running down the creature publicly. "This is a rather sad story. But you'll see what bugs can be up to The Tsar had some trouble at the Kremlin. He hadn't a moment's rest during the day as things were already showing signs of the coming avalanche. When he went to bed at night he felt, I believe, the same kind of philosophic disquietude as I did in that Siberian town. He mentioned the fact to his Chamberlain who after extensive investigation through the domestic staff ascertained that the royal household was infested by a certain variety of crawling *insects known in the poor quarters as "bugs."*

Of course the thing for fear of spreading profane ideas among the masses regarding the Batiushka, was kept within the knowledge of a few select officials commissioned specially for eradicating the obnoxious vermin. The Commission in its turn through the assistance of certain world-famous entomologists, members of the Academy of Science, came to the conclusion that the crawling insects could not be totally exterminated unless His Imperial Majesty gave his sanction to the destruction of all the swallows' nests in the Kremlin tower. Fancy the demned things crawling up to the swallows' nests and making the tower their H.Q., invading and taking possession of the Kremlin before any proletariat dared to set his foot there!

It must have been a pitiable sight, the swallows circling round and round the tower, whole flights of them, while their nests were being destroyed. You would feel particularly sorry for them if you had ever seen how the mother swallow feeds her young ones in quick flights. Whirr she darts out of her nest in search of a fl while two or three hungry beaks squeal the little ones sitting in a row on the cornish. Then whirr she returns and feeds them by turns. She never forgets whose turn it is to get the fly."

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Komarek lit a cigarette and started another yarn. "Mind you, he said, this may not be an authentic story. I collected it from an American skipper. The fellow might have heard it from another fellow or might have read it in a book. In telling it you I may be cribbing for all I know. However, here it is. An Englishman went to the States just to convince himself, it seems, that the best country under the Sun was his island where everything was the best of the very best. He went to live with a gentleman farmer friend of his pretty far inland. He was received with the usual hail-fellow-well-met sort of cordiality so characteristic of an American.

He was given a splendid room, fed on the best yield of the farm, driven in a luxurious car round the farm, introduced to his friend's neighbours who made a terrific fuss over him, as he hailed from England. But the Englishman still felt high and mighty, and did not conceal his ideas of Rule Britannia and all that from his host. 'Oh, he would say, is that what you call a potato? Pretty small, I should think. In England, you know, a normal potato is the size of your pumpkin. Oh, I say, your tomatoes seem to have blight, I mean, ours are generally as big as a child's head. And is this a cabbage? I thought it was a Brussels sprout, I mean, our sprouts are generally of this size.

Hullo, what do I see but a miniature cucumber? This size is of course good for pickling, but a normal cucumber should be at the very least a yard and a half long, I mean, it is so in England." And so on and so forth. His farmer friend kept quiet save for a polite 'Oh yes?', 'Is that so?' from time to time. The Englishman rented all day glorifying his country while the American only nodded and smiled and expressed his admiration for so great a country. After supper the poor deflated Yankee saw his prodigious guest to his bedroom and said good-night.

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In about a quarter of an hour's time there was a terrific scream from the latter's room. In fact that American was expecting that and was enjoying a quiet joke all by himself walking up and down his study. So up he ran to his guest's room and enquired if he could be of any assistance. 'Help? I should think so!'—said the trembling voice of the Englishman—'What is that creature on the bed?' He pointed to a turtle impassively stationed in a corner of the bed. 'Oh, I am sorry, apologized the American, I forgot to warn you. That is an American bug. A fair size, isn't it?'

"I could tell you dozens and dozens of buggy tales, but I shan't considering Klopoff's susceptibilities. He may grow a complex about his own name and feel itchy and scratchy in his own company. But I can't resist telling you what I read in a work of that master Russian humorist Anton Chiekhoff. It is a short stage monologue called 'O vrierie tabaka'—'On the evils of tobacco', probably not yet translated into English. It was written after his great dramas, so it has the full maturity of his genius. An old distraught professor is supposed to be delivering a lecture on a scientific subject. And in the process he mentions all sorts of things touching upon his private life under the domination of his autocratic scolding wife. One can't but admire Chiekhoff's insight into life when he makes the dithering prof say—'At home we've got a pianoforte which is inhabited by bugs! Well fellows let's go and have a dip in the sea. I feel all itchy and scratchy somehow."

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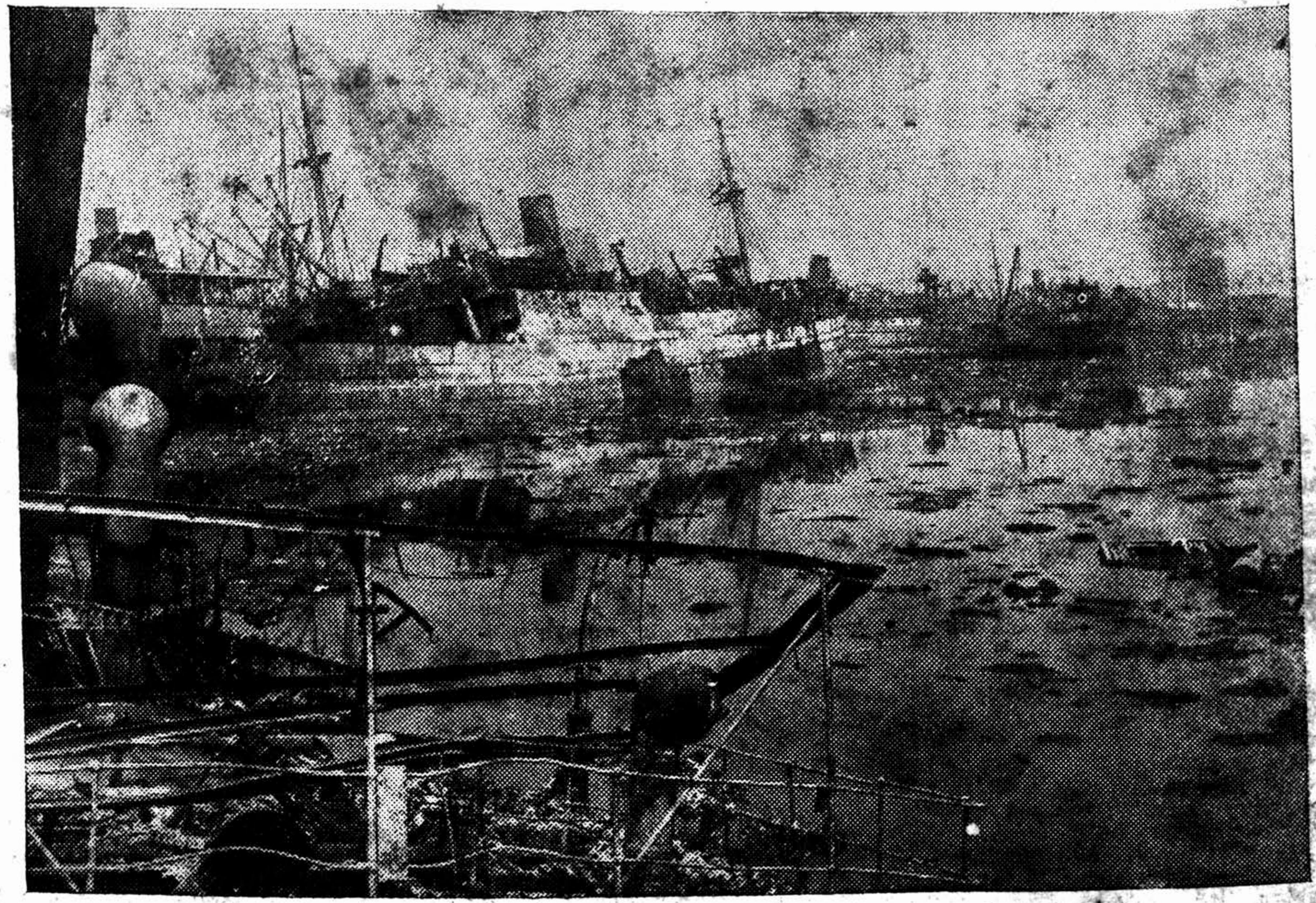
BOMBAY DOCK BACK INTO Commission



Ships were tossed like toys and litter from dock buildings was strewn along the entire waterfront.

Quietly and without ceremony Bombay's Victoria Dock, which was drained for reconstruction after the explosion last April, has been refilled and is once again capable of receiving ships and handling cargoes.

The climax in a hard-fought campaign against time and weather to meet the clamant needs of a country at war has thus been reached, writes an Indian Army Observer.

At high tide in the grey dawn army engineers and a few officials watched the opening of high level sluices in one of the dock gates to admit the sea—more than six months after disastrous fires and explosions had put the dock completely out of commission.

Water cascaded in at about 30,000 tons an hour—an apparently impressive amount but in fact carefully calculated to avoid risks and the possible effect of sudden pressure on the patched-up ships lying stranded on the muddy bottom.

The success of the operations during the week which followed the first flow of water into the dock was due to the scientific planning and staff work of the army engineers detailed to put the dock back into commission in the shortest possible time. They had worked out the closest calculations of how and when each ship would float clear of the mud.

The whole operation had to be timed to a nicety, depending on the levels of spring and neap tides, if it was to be a success.

For days before water was admitted mud on the dock bottom was softened by pressure pumps forcing air through the mud underneath the stranded hulks. The result of all this planning and preparation was that each ship came up easily and floated free of mud at the expected time.

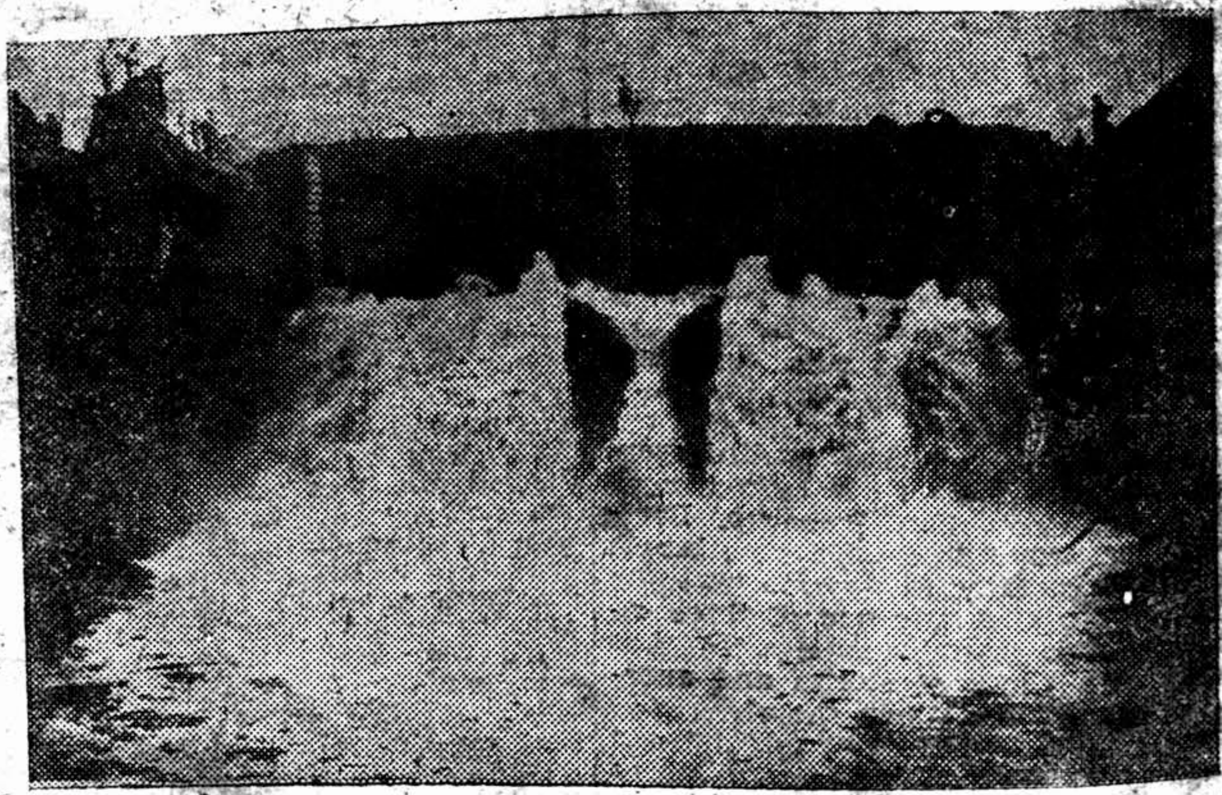
By good fortune a high wind on the first day resulted in a higher and longer tide than usual and consequently more water than was anticipated. The first ship, of about 500 tons, a pumping barge and a lighter came up on this first tide and by the next day all seven battered ships were afloat.

By the end of a week all ships were riding easily, the floating caissons at the dock entrances had been removed and each bulk had been taken out by tugs to an anchorage nearly five miles off-shore.

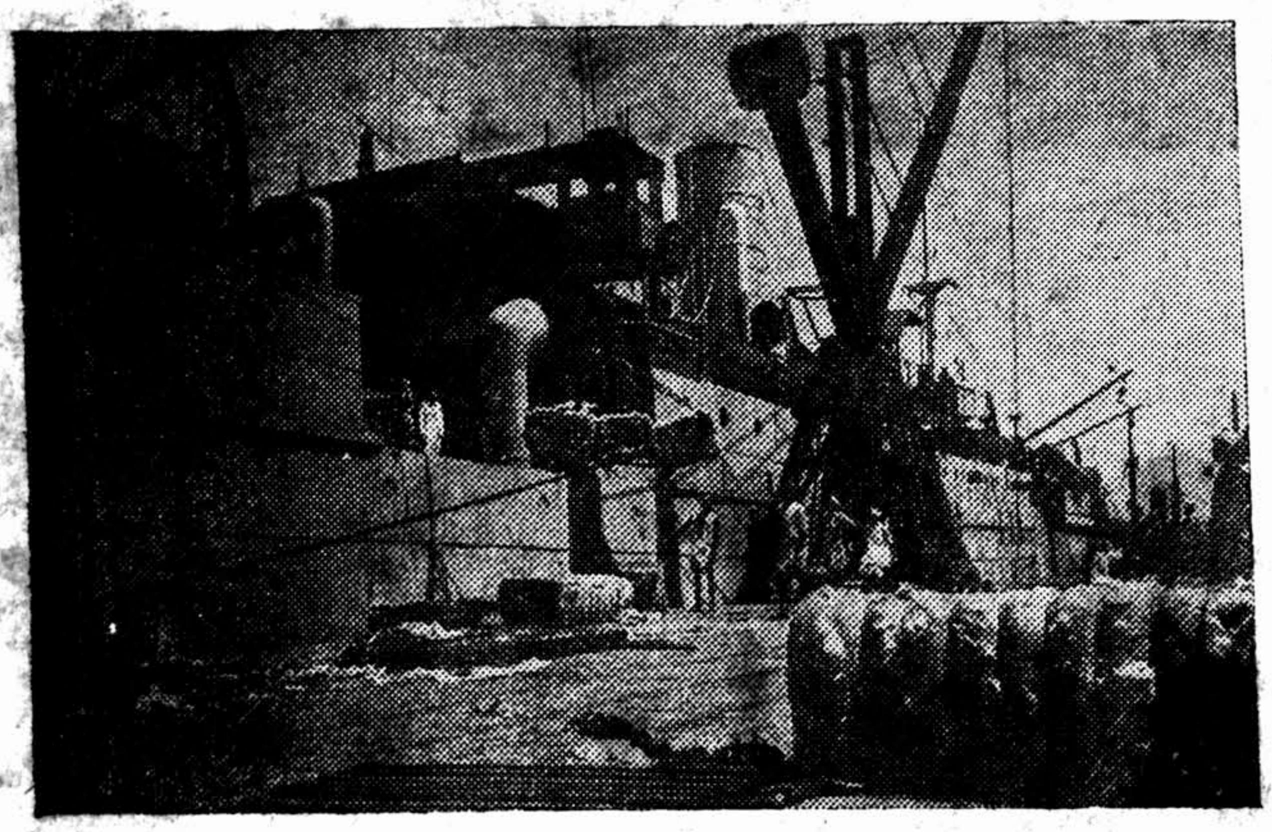
The delicate operation was over. Everyone breathed freely. The dock was cleared of shipping and was once again ready to handle the freight of the sea. It was as if someone had taken down the old notice, "Closed for alterations," and hung up the sign "Business as usual."

Work has been resumed at Bombay docks which were wrecked 7 months ago by one of the world's mightiest explosions. The explosion caused untold damage and loss of life, but as this series of pictures shows, the colossal task of clearing wreckage and reconstruction is almost complete.

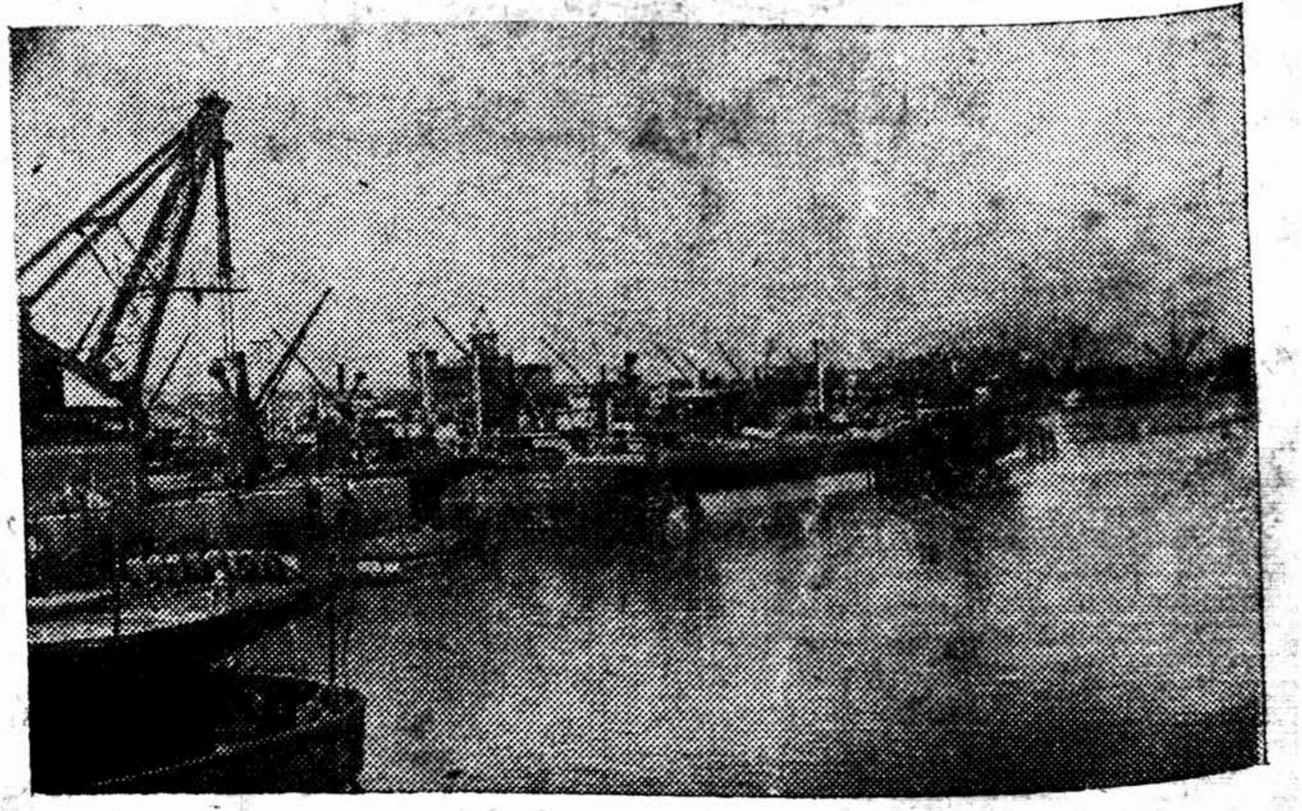
After the dock was emptied and cleared of wreckage and the **concrete quay** walls were repaired a damaged ship lay stranded.



Repairs to the dock were quickly completed and it was re-filled through sluices.



Big ships are again using the reconstructed berths.



Bustle of shipping traffic in the big port has resumed.

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